



US009463309B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Yavorsky et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,463,309 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 11, 2016**

(54) **SEALING ASSEMBLY AND STRUCTURE
FOR A FLUID INFUSION DEVICE HAVING A
NEEDED FLUID RESERVOIR**

(71) Applicant: **MEDTRONIC MINIMED, INC.**,
Northridge, CA (US)

(72) Inventors: **Matthew William Yavorsky**, Los
Angeles, CA (US); **Edgardo C. Halili**,
Santa Clarita, CA (US); **Eric M.
Lorenzen**, Granada Hills, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Medtronic MiniMed, Inc.**, Northridge,
CA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 628 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/657,652**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 22, 2012**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2013/0046252 A1 Feb. 21, 2013

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 13/399,851,
filed on Feb. 17, 2012, now abandoned, and a
(Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A61M 5/00 (2006.01)
A61M 39/06 (2006.01)
A61M 5/162 (2006.01)
A61M 5/142 (2006.01)
A61M 5/31 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **A61M 39/06** (2013.01); **A61M 5/14248**
(2013.01); **A61M 5/162** (2013.01); **A61M**
2005/3103 (2013.01); **A61M 2005/3104**
(2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC A61M 39/06; A61M 39/0606; A61M
2039/0633; A61M 2039/064; A61M 5/14244;
A61M 5/14248; A61M 5/162

USPC 604/244, 256, 257, 247

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,631,847 A 1/1972 Hobbs, II
4,212,738 A 7/1980 Henne

(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DE 4329229 3/1995
EP 0319268 11/1988

(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

PCT Search Report (PCT/US02/03299, Oct. 31, 2002, Medtronic
Minimed, Inc.

(Continued)

Primary Examiner — Edelmira Bosques

Assistant Examiner — Leah Swanson

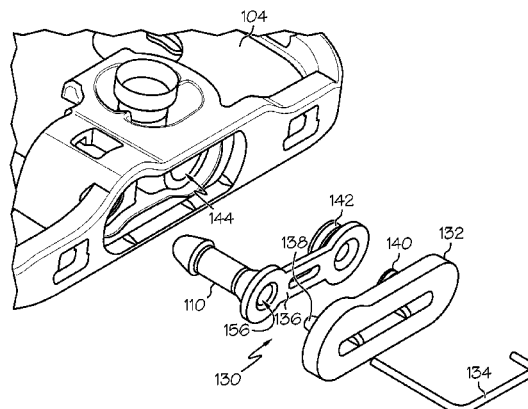
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Lorenz & Kopf, LLP

(57)

ABSTRACT

A sealing assembly is utilized for a fluid infusion device that cooperates with a fluid reservoir having a reservoir port and a hollow fluid reservoir needle at least partially located within the reservoir port. The sealing assembly has a reservoir port receptacle with a proximal end, a distal end extending from the proximal end, and a needle opening formed in the distal end to receive the hollow fluid reservoir needle. The sealing assembly also has a fluid chamber located at least partially in the reservoir port receptacle, and a needle sealing element having a self-sealing needle opening formed therein. The needle sealing element is located within the reservoir port receptacle between the distal end and the fluid chamber. The self-sealing needle opening accommodates the hollow fluid reservoir needle when the reservoir port engages the reservoir port receptacle.

13 Claims, 23 Drawing Sheets



Related U.S. Application Data

continuation-in-part of application No. 13/399,857, filed on Feb. 17, 2012, now Pat. No. 9,339,639, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 13/399,863, filed on Feb. 17, 2012, now abandoned, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 13/399,865, filed on Feb. 17, 2012, now Pat. No. 8,900,206, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 13/399,870, filed on Feb. 17, 2012, now Pat. No. 8,864,726, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 13/399,874, filed on Feb. 17, 2012, now Pat. No. 8,870,829, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 13/399,878, filed on Feb. 17, 2012, now Pat. No. 8,945,068.

- (60) Provisional application No. 61/445,393, filed on Feb. 22, 2011.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,270,532 A	6/1981	Franetzki et al.	5,371,687 A	12/1994	Holmes, II et al.
4,282,872 A	8/1981	Franetzki et al.	5,376,070 A	12/1994	Purvis et al.
4,373,527 A	2/1983	Fischell	5,390,671 A	2/1995	Lord et al.
4,395,259 A	7/1983	Prestele et al.	5,391,250 A	2/1995	Cheney, II et al.
4,433,072 A	2/1984	Pusineri et al.	5,403,700 A	4/1995	Heller et al.
4,443,218 A	4/1984	DeCant, Jr. et al.	5,411,647 A	5/1995	Johnson et al.
4,494,950 A	1/1985	Fischell	5,482,473 A	1/1996	Lord et al.
4,512,766 A	4/1985	Vailancourt	5,485,408 A	1/1996	Blomquist
4,542,532 A	9/1985	McQuilkin	5,497,772 A	3/1996	Schulman et al.
4,550,731 A	11/1985	Batina et al.	5,505,709 A	4/1996	Funderburk et al.
4,559,037 A	12/1985	Franetzki et al.	5,520,665 A	5/1996	Fleetwood
4,562,751 A	1/1986	Nason et al.	5,543,326 A	8/1996	Heller et al.
4,671,288 A	6/1987	Gough	5,549,566 A	8/1996	Elias et al.
4,678,408 A	7/1987	Nason et al.	5,569,186 A	10/1996	Lord et al.
4,685,903 A	8/1987	Cable et al.	5,569,187 A	10/1996	Kaiser
4,731,051 A	3/1988	Fischell	5,573,506 A	11/1996	Vasko
4,731,726 A	3/1988	Allen, III	5,582,593 A	12/1996	Hultman
4,781,798 A	11/1988	Gough	5,586,553 A	12/1996	Halili et al.
4,803,625 A	2/1989	Fu et al.	5,593,390 A	1/1997	Castellano et al.
4,809,697 A	3/1989	Causey, III et al.	5,593,852 A	1/1997	Heller et al.
4,826,810 A	5/1989	Aoki	5,594,638 A	1/1997	Iliff
4,871,351 A	10/1989	Feingold	5,609,060 A	3/1997	Dent
4,898,578 A	2/1990	Rubalcaba, Jr.	5,626,144 A	5/1997	Tacklind et al.
5,003,298 A	3/1991	Havel	5,630,710 A	5/1997	Tune et al.
5,011,468 A	4/1991	Lundquist et al.	5,643,212 A	7/1997	Coutre et al.
5,019,974 A	5/1991	Beckers	5,660,163 A	8/1997	Schulman et al.
5,050,612 A	9/1991	Matsumura	5,660,176 A	8/1997	Iliff
5,078,683 A	1/1992	Sancoff et al.	5,665,065 A	9/1997	Colman et al.
5,080,653 A	1/1992	Voss et al.	5,665,222 A	9/1997	Heller et al.
5,097,122 A	3/1992	Colman et al.	5,685,844 A	11/1997	Marttila
5,100,380 A	3/1992	Epstein et al.	5,687,734 A	11/1997	Dempsey et al.
5,101,814 A	4/1992	Palti	5,704,366 A	1/1998	Tacklind et al.
5,108,819 A	4/1992	Heller et al.	5,750,926 A	5/1998	Schulman et al.
5,153,827 A	10/1992	Coutre et al.	5,754,111 A	5/1998	Garcia
5,165,407 A	11/1992	Wilson et al.	5,764,159 A	6/1998	Nefel
5,247,434 A	9/1993	Peterson et al.	5,772,635 A	6/1998	Dastur et al.
5,262,035 A	11/1993	Gregg et al.	5,779,665 A	7/1998	Mastrototaro et al.
5,262,305 A	11/1993	Heller et al.	5,788,669 A	8/1998	Peterson
5,264,104 A	11/1993	Gregg et al.	5,791,344 A	8/1998	Schulman et al.
5,264,105 A	11/1993	Gregg et al.	5,800,420 A	9/1998	Gross et al.
5,284,140 A	2/1994	Allen et al.	5,807,336 A	9/1998	Russo et al.
5,299,571 A	4/1994	Mastrototaro	5,814,015 A	9/1998	Gargano et al.
5,307,263 A	4/1994	Brown	5,822,715 A	10/1998	Worthington et al.
5,317,506 A	5/1994	Coutre et al.	5,832,448 A	11/1998	Brown
5,320,725 A	6/1994	Gregg et al.	5,840,020 A	11/1998	Heinonen et al.
5,322,063 A	6/1994	Allen et al.	5,840,063 A	11/1998	Flaherty
5,338,157 A	8/1994	Blomquist	5,861,018 A	1/1999	Feierbach et al.
5,339,821 A	8/1994	Fujimoto	5,868,669 A	2/1999	Iliff
5,341,291 A	8/1994	Roizen et al.	5,871,465 A	2/1999	Vasko
5,350,411 A	9/1994	Ryan et al.	5,879,163 A	3/1999	Brown et al.
5,356,786 A	10/1994	Heller et al.	5,885,245 A	3/1999	Lynch et al.
5,357,427 A	10/1994	Langen et al.	5,897,493 A	4/1999	Brown
5,368,562 A	11/1994	Blomquist et al.	5,899,855 A	5/1999	Brown
5,370,622 A	12/1994	Livingston et al.	5,904,708 A	5/1999	Goedeke
			5,913,310 A	6/1999	Brown
			5,917,346 A	6/1999	Gord
			5,918,603 A	7/1999	Brown
			5,925,021 A	7/1999	Castellano et al.
			5,933,136 A	8/1999	Brown
			5,935,099 A	8/1999	Peterson et al.
			5,940,801 A	8/1999	Brown
			5,956,501 A	9/1999	Brown
			5,960,403 A	9/1999	Brown
			5,965,380 A	10/1999	Heller et al.
			5,972,199 A	10/1999	Heller et al.
			5,978,236 A	11/1999	Faberman et al.
			5,997,476 A	12/1999	Brown
			5,999,848 A	12/1999	Gord et al.
			5,999,849 A	12/1999	Gord et al.
			6,009,339 A	12/1999	Bentsen et al.
			6,032,119 A	2/2000	Brown et al.
			6,043,437 A	3/2000	Schulman et al.
			6,081,736 A	6/2000	Colvin et al.
			6,083,710 A	7/2000	Heller et al.
			6,088,608 A	7/2000	Schulman et al.
			6,101,478 A	8/2000	Brown
			6,103,033 A	8/2000	Say et al.
			6,119,028 A	9/2000	Schulman et al.
			6,120,676 A	9/2000	Heller et al.

(56)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

6,121,009 A 9/2000 Heller et al.
 6,134,461 A 10/2000 Say et al.
 6,143,164 A 11/2000 Heller et al.
 6,162,611 A 12/2000 Heller et al.
 6,175,752 B1 1/2001 Say et al.
 6,183,412 B1 2/2001 Benkowski et al.
 6,246,992 B1 6/2001 Brown
 6,259,937 B1 7/2001 Schulman et al.
 6,329,161 B1 12/2001 Heller et al.
 6,408,330 B1 6/2002 DeLaHuerge
 6,424,847 B1 7/2002 Mastrototaro et al.
 6,472,122 B1 10/2002 Schulman et al.
 6,484,045 B1 11/2002 Holker et al.
 6,484,046 B1 11/2002 Say et al.
 6,503,381 B1 1/2003 Gotoh et al.
 6,514,718 B2 2/2003 Heller et al.
 6,544,173 B2 4/2003 West et al.
 6,553,263 B1 4/2003 Meadows et al.
 6,554,798 B1 4/2003 Mann et al.
 6,558,320 B1 5/2003 Causey, III et al.
 6,558,351 B1 5/2003 Steil et al.
 6,560,741 B1 5/2003 Gerety et al.
 6,565,509 B1 5/2003 Say et al.
 6,579,690 B1 6/2003 Bonnecaze et al.
 6,591,125 B1 7/2003 Buse et al.
 6,592,745 B1 7/2003 Feldman et al.
 6,605,200 B1 8/2003 Mao et al.
 6,605,201 B1 8/2003 Mao et al.
 6,607,658 B1 8/2003 Heller et al.
 6,616,819 B1 9/2003 Lamos et al.
 6,618,934 B1 9/2003 Feldman et al.
 6,623,501 B2 9/2003 Heller et al.
 6,641,533 B2 11/2003 Causey, III et al.
 6,654,625 B1 11/2003 Say et al.
 6,659,980 B2 12/2003 Moberg et al.
 6,671,554 B2 12/2003 Gibson et al.
 6,676,816 B2 1/2004 Mao et al.
 6,689,265 B2 2/2004 Heller et al.
 6,728,576 B2 4/2004 Thompson et al.
 6,733,471 B1 5/2004 Ericson et al.
 6,746,582 B2 6/2004 Heller et al.
 6,747,556 B2 6/2004 Medema et al.
 6,749,740 B2 6/2004 Lamos et al.
 6,752,787 B1 6/2004 Causey, III et al.
 6,809,653 B1 10/2004 Mann et al.
 6,881,551 B2 4/2005 Heller et al.
 6,892,085 B2 5/2005 McIvor et al.
 6,893,545 B2 5/2005 Gotoh et al.
 6,895,263 B2 5/2005 Shin et al.
 6,916,159 B2 7/2005 Rush et al.
 6,932,584 B2 8/2005 Gray et al.
 6,932,894 B2 8/2005 Mao et al.
 6,942,518 B2 9/2005 Lamos et al.
 7,153,263 B2 12/2006 Carter et al.
 7,153,289 B2 12/2006 Vasko
 7,396,330 B2 7/2008 Banet et al.
 7,828,764 B2 11/2010 Moberg et al.
 7,905,868 B2 3/2011 Moberg et al.
 7,981,076 B2 7/2011 Sullivan et al.
 8,105,314 B2 1/2012 Fangrow, Jr.
 2001/0044731 A1 11/2001 Coffman et al.
 2002/0013518 A1 1/2002 West et al.
 2002/0055857 A1 5/2002 Mault et al.
 2002/0082665 A1 6/2002 Haller et al.
 2002/0137997 A1 9/2002 Mastrototaro et al.
 2002/0161288 A1 10/2002 Shin et al.
 2003/0060765 A1 3/2003 Campbell et al.
 2003/0078560 A1 4/2003 Miller et al.
 2003/0088166 A1 5/2003 Say et al.
 2003/0144581 A1 7/2003 Conn et al.
 2003/0152823 A1 8/2003 Heller
 2003/0176183 A1 9/2003 Drucker et al.
 2003/0188427 A1 10/2003 Say et al.
 2003/0199744 A1 10/2003 Buse et al.
 2003/0208113 A1 11/2003 Mault et al.

2003/0220552 A1 11/2003 Reghabi et al.
 2004/0061232 A1 4/2004 Shah et al.
 2004/0061234 A1 4/2004 Shah et al.
 2004/0064133 A1 4/2004 Miller et al.
 2004/0064156 A1 4/2004 Shah et al.
 2004/0073095 A1 4/2004 Causey, III et al.
 2004/0074785 A1 4/2004 Holker et al.
 2004/0093167 A1 5/2004 Braig et al.
 2004/0097796 A1 5/2004 Berman et al.
 2004/0102683 A1 5/2004 Khanuja et al.
 2004/0111017 A1 6/2004 Say et al.
 2004/0122353 A1 6/2004 Shahmirian et al.
 2004/0167465 A1 8/2004 Mihai et al.
 2004/0263354 A1 12/2004 Mann et al.
 2005/0038331 A1 2/2005 Silaski et al.
 2005/0038680 A1 2/2005 McMahon et al.
 2005/0087715 A1 4/2005 Doyle
 2005/0101932 A1 5/2005 Cote et al.
 2005/0154271 A1 7/2005 Rasdal et al.
 2005/0165365 A1 7/2005 Newton et al.
 2005/0192557 A1 9/2005 Brauker et al.
 2006/0211990 A1 9/2006 Fangrow, Jr.
 2006/0229694 A1 10/2006 Schulman et al.
 2006/0238333 A1 10/2006 Welch et al.
 2006/0293571 A1 12/2006 Bao et al.
 2007/0083162 A1 4/2007 O'Reagan et al.
 2007/0088521 A1 4/2007 Shmueli et al.
 2007/0135866 A1 6/2007 Baker et al.
 2008/0154503 A1 6/2008 Wittenber et al.
 2008/0269687 A1 10/2008 Chong et al.
 2009/0081951 A1 3/2009 Erdmann et al.
 2009/0082635 A1 3/2009 Baldus et al.
 2009/0204077 A1 8/2009 Hasted et al.
 2009/0254041 A1 10/2009 Krag et al.
 2009/0299290 A1 12/2009 Moberg
 2011/0036844 A1 2/2011 Gym et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP 0806738 11/1997
 EP 0880936 12/1998
 EP 1338295 8/2003
 EP 1631036 A2 3/2006
 GB 2218831 11/1989
 WO WO 93/11828 A1 6/1993
 WO WO 96/13301 A2 5/1996
 WO WO 96/20745 7/1996
 WO WO 96/36389 11/1996
 WO WO 96/37246 A1 11/1996
 WO WO 97/21456 6/1997
 WO WO 98/20439 5/1998
 WO WO 98/24358 6/1998
 WO WO 98/42407 10/1998
 WO WO 98/49659 11/1998
 WO WO 98/59487 12/1998
 WO WO 99/08183 2/1999
 WO WO 99/10801 3/1999
 WO WO 99/18532 4/1999
 WO WO 99/22236 5/1999
 WO WO 00/10628 3/2000
 WO WO 00/19887 4/2000
 WO WO 00/20070 A1 4/2000
 WO WO 00/48112 8/2000
 WO WO 02/058537 A2 8/2002
 WO WO 03/001329 1/2003
 WO WO 03/094090 11/2003
 WO WO 2005/065538 A2 7/2005
 WO WO 2008/064092 A2 5/2008
 WO WO2009/102355 A2 8/2009

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(Animas Corporation, 1999). Animas . . . bringing new life to insulin therapy.
 Bode B W, et al. (1996). Reduction in Severe Hypoglycemia with Long-Term Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion in Type I Diabetes. Diabetes Care, vol. 19, No. 4, 324-327.

(56)

References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Boland E (1998). *Teens Pumping it Up! Insulin Pump Therapy Guide for Adolescents*. 2nd Edition.
- Brackenridge B P (1992). Carbohydrate Gram Counting a Key to Accurate Mealtime Boluses in Intensive Diabetes Therapy. *Practical Diabetology*, vol. 11, No. 2, pp. 22-28.
- Brackenridge, B P et al. (1995). Counting Carbohydrates How to Zero in on Good Control. MiniMed Technologies Inc.
- Farkas-Hirsch R et al. (1994). Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion: A Review of the Past and Its Implementation for the Future. *Diabetes Spectrum From Research to Practice*, vol. 7, No. 2, pp. 80-84, 136-138.
- Hirsch I B et al. (1990). Intensive Insulin Therapy for Treatment of Type I Diabetes. *Diabetes Care*, vol. 13, No. 12, pp. 1265-1283.
- Kulkarni K et al. (1999). Carbohydrate Counting a Primer for Insulin Pump Users to Zero in on Good Control. MiniMed Inc.
- Marcus A O et al. (1996). Insulin Pump Therapy Acceptable Alternative to Injection Therapy. *Postgraduate Medicine*, vol. 99, No. 3, pp. 125-142.
- Reed J et al. (1996). Voice of the Diabetic, vol. 11, No. 3, pp. 1-38.
- Skyler J S (1989). Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion [CSII] With External Devices: Current Status. Update in Drug Delivery Systems, Chapter 13, pp. 163-183. Futura Publishing Company.
- Skyler J S et al. (1995). The Insulin Pump Therapy Book Insights from the Experts. MiniMed Technologies.
- Strowig S M (1993). Initiation and Management of Insulin Pump Therapy. *The Diabetes Educator*, vol. 19, No. 1, pp. 50-60.
- Walsh J, et al. (1989). Pumping Insulin: The Art of Using an Insulin Pump. Published by MiniMed Technologies.
- (Intensive Diabetes Management, 1995). Insulin Infusion Pump Therapy. pp. 66-78.
- Disetronic My Choice™ D-TRON™ Insulin Pump Reference Manual. (no date).
- Disetronic H-TRON® plus Quick Start Manual. (no date).
- Disetronic My Choice H-TRONplus Insulin Pump Reference Manual. (no date).
- Disetronic H-TRON® plus Reference Manual. (no date).
- (MiniMed, 1996). The MiniMed 506. 7 pages. Retrieved on Sep. 16, 2003 from the World Wide Web: http://web.archive.org/web/19961111054527/www.minimed.com/files/506_pic.htm.
- (MiniMed, 1997). MiniMed 507 Specifications. 2 pages. Retrieved on Sep. 16, 2003 from the World Wide Web: <http://web.archive.org/web/19970124234841/www.minimed.com/files/mmn075.htm>.
- (MiniMed, 1996). FAQ: The Practical Things . . . pp. 1-4. Retrieved on Sep. 16, 2003 from the World Wide Web: http://web.archive.org/web/19961111054546/www.minimed.com/files/faq_pract.htm.
- (MiniMed, 1997). Wanted: a Few Good Belt Clips! 1 page. Retrieved on Sep. 16, 2003 from the World Wide Web: <http://web.archive.org/web/19970124234559/www.minimed.com/files/mmn002.htm>.
- (MiniMed Technologies, 1994). MiniMed 506 Insulin Pump User's Guide.
- (MiniMed Technologies, 1994). MiniMed™ Dosage Calculator Initial Meal Bolus Guidelines / MiniMed™ Dosage Calculator Initial Basal Rate Guidelines Percentage Method. 4 pages.
- (MiniMed, 1996). MiniMed™ 507 Insulin Pump User's Guide.
- (MiniMed, 1997). MiniMed™ 507 Insulin Pump User's Guide.
- (MiniMed, 1998). MiniMed 507C Insulin Pump User's Guide.
- (MiniMed International, 1998). MiniMed 507C Insulin Pump for those who appreciate the difference.
- (MiniMed Inc., 1999). MiniMed 508 Flipchart Guide to Insulin Pump Therapy.
- (MiniMed Inc., 1999). Insulin Pump Comparison / Pump Therapy Will Change Your Life.
- (MiniMed, 2000). MiniMed® 508 User's Guide.
- (MiniMed Inc., 2000). MiniMed® Now [I] Can Meal Bolus Calculator / MiniMed® Now [I] Can Correction Bolus Calculator.
- (MiniMed Inc., 2000). Now [I] Can MiniMed Pump Therapy.
- (MiniMed Inc., 2000). Now [I] Can MiniMed Diabetes Management.
- (Medtronic MiniMed, 2002). The 508 Insulin Pump a Tradition of Excellence.
- (Medtronic MiniMed, 2002). Medtronic MiniMed Meal Bolus Calculator and Correction Bolus Calculator. International Version.
- Abel, P., et al., "Experience with an implantable glucose sensor as a prerequisite of an artificial beta cell," *Biomed. Biochim. Acta* 43 (1984) 5, pp. 577-584.
- Bindra, Dilbir S., et al., "Design and in Vitro Studies of a Needle-Type Glucose Sensor for a Subcutaneous Monitoring," *American Chemistry Society*, 1991, 63, pp. 1692-1696.
- Boguslavsky, Leonid, et al., "Applications of redox polymers in biosensors," *Solid State Ionics* 60, 1993, pp. 189-197.
- Geise, Robert J., et al., "Electropolymerized 1,3-diaminobenzene for the construction of a 1,1'-dimethylferrocene mediated glucose biosensor," *Analytica Chimica Acta*, 281, 1993, pp. 467-473.
- Gernet, S., et al., "A Planar Glucose Enzyme Electrode," *Sensors and Actuators*, 17, 1989, pp. 537-540.
- Gernet, S., et al., "Fabrication and Characterization of a Planar Electromechanical Cell and its Application as a Glucose Sensor," *Sensors and Actuators*, 18, 1989, pp. 59-70.
- Gorton, L., et al., "Amperometric Biosensors Based on an Apparent Direct Electron Transfer Between Electrodes and Immobilized Peroxases," *Analyst*, Aug. 1991, vol. 117, pp. 1235-1241.
- Gorton, L., et al., "Amperometric Glucose Sensors Based on Immobilized Glucose-Oxidizing Enzymes and Chemically Modified Electrodes," *Analytica Chimica Acta*, 249, 1991, pp. 43-54.
- Gough, D. A., et al., "Two-Dimensional Enzyme Electrode Sensor for Glucose," *Analytical Chemistry*, vol. 57, No. 5, 1985, pp. 2351-2357.
- Gregg, Brian A., et al., "Cross-Linked Redox Gels Containing Glucose Oxidase for Amperometric Biosensor Applications," *Analytical Chemistry*, 62, pp. 258-263.
- Gregg, Brian A., et al., "Redox Polymer Films Containing Enzymes. 1. A Redox-Conducting Epoxy Cement: Synthesis, Characterization, and Electrocatalytic Oxidation of Hydroquinone," *The Journal of Physical Chemistry*, vol. 95, No. 15, 1991, pp. 5970-5975.
- Hashiguchi, Yasuhiro, MD, et al., "Development of a Miniaturized Glucose Monitoring System by Combining a Needle-Type Glucose Sensor With Microdialysis Sampling Method," *Diabetes Care*, vol. 17, No. 5, May 1994, pp. 387-389.
- Heller, Adam, "Electrical Wiring of Redox Enzymes," *Acc. Chem. Res.*, vol. 23, No. 5, May 1990, pp. 128-134.
- Jobst, Gerhard, et al., "Thin-Film Microbiosensors for Glucose-Lactate Monitoring," *Analytical Chemistry*, vol. 68, No. 18, Sep. 15, 1996, pp. 3173-3179.
- Johnson, K.W., et al., "In vivo evaluation of an electroenzymatic glucose sensor implanted in subcutaneous tissue," *Biosensors & Bioelectronics*, 7, 1992, pp. 709-714.
- Jönsson, G., et al., "An Electromechanical Sensor for Hydrogen Peroxide Based on Peroxidase Adsorbed on a Spectrographic Graphite Electrode," *Electroanalysis*, 1989, pp. 465-468.
- Kanapieniene, J. J., et al., "Miniature Glucose Biosensor with Extended Linearity," *Sensors and Actuators*, B. 10, 1992, pp. 37-40.
- Kawamori, Ryuzo, et al., "Perfect Normalization of Excessive Glucagon Responses to Intravenous Arginine in Human Diabetes Mellitus With the Artificial Beta-Cell," *Diabetes* vol. 29, Sep. 1980, pp. 762-765.
- Kimura, J., et al., "An Immobilized Enzyme Membrane Fabrication Method," *Biosensors* 4, 1988, pp. 41-52.
- Koudelka, M., et al., "In-vivo Behaviour of Hypodermically Implanted Microfabricated Glucose Sensors," *Biosensors & Bioelectronics* 6, 1991, pp. 31-36.
- Koudelka, M., et al., "Planar Amperometric Enzyme-Based Glucose Microelectrode," *Sensors & Actuators*, 18, 1989, pp. 157-165.
- Mastrototaro, John J., et al., "An electroenzymatic glucose sensor fabricated on a flexible substrate," *Sensors & Actuators*, B. 5, 1991, pp. 139-144.
- Mastrototaro, John J., et al., "An Electroenzymatic Sensor Capable of 72 Hour Continuous Monitoring of Subcutaneous Glucose," 14th Annual International Diabetes Federation Congress, Washington D.C., Jun. 23-28, 1991.

(56)

References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- McKean, Brian D., et al., "A Telemetry-Instrumentation System for Chronically Implanted Glucose and Oxygen Sensors," *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering*, Vol. 35, No. 7, Jul. 1988, pp. 526-532.
- Monroe, D., "Novel Implantable Glucose Sensors," *ACL*, Dec. 1989, pp. 8-16.
- Morfi, Robert J., et al., "Microfabrication of Reproducible, Economical, Electroenzymatic Glucose Sensors," *Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society*, Vol. 12, No. 2, 1990, pp. 483-484.
- Moussy, Francis, et al., "Performance of Subcutaneously Implanted Needle-Type Glucose Sensors Employing a Novel Trilayer Coating," *Analytical Chemistry*, vol. 65, No. 15, Aug. 1, 1993, pp. 2072-2077.
- Nakamoto, S., et al., "A Lift-Off Method for Patterning Enzyme-Immobilized Membranes in Multi-Biosensors," *Sensors and Actuators* 13, 1988, pp. 165-172.
- Nishida, Kenro, et al., "Clinical applications of the wearable artificial endocrine pancreas with the newly designed needle-type glucose sensor," *Elsevier Sciences B.V.*, 1994, pp. 353-358.
- Nishida, Kenro, et al., "Development of a ferrocene-mediated needle-type glucose sensor covered with newly designed biocompatible membrane, 2-methacryloyloxyethylphosphorylcholine-co-n-butyl methacrylate," *Medical Progress Through Technology*, vol. 21, 1995, pp. 91-103.
- Poitout, V., et al., "A glucose monitoring system for on line estimation of blood glucose concentration using a miniaturized glucose sensor implanted in the subcutaneous tissue and a wearable control unit," *Diabetologia*, vol. 36, 1991, pp. 658-663.
- Reach, G., "A Method for Evaluating in vivo the Functional Characteristics of Glucose Sensors," *Biosensors* 2, 1986, pp. 211-220.
- Shaw, G. W., et al., "In vitro testing of a simply constructed, highly stable glucose sensor suitable for implantation in diabetic patients," *Biosensors & Bioelectronics* 6, 1991, pp. 401-406.
- Shichiri, M., "A Needle-Type Glucose Sensor—A Valuable Tool Not Only for a Self-Blood Glucose Monitoring but for a Wearable Artificial Pancreas," *Life Support Systems Proceedings, XI Annual Meeting ESAO, Alpbach-Innsbruck, Austria*, Sep. 1984, pp. 7-9.
- Shichiri, Motoaki, et al., "An artificial endocrine pancreas—problems awaiting solution for long-term clinical applications of a glucose sensor," *Frontiers Med. Biol. Engng.*, 1991, vol. 3, No. 4, pp. 283-292.
- Shichiri, Motoaki, et al., "Closed-Loop Glycemic Control with a Wearable Artificial Endocrine Pancreas—Variations in Daily Insulin Requirements to Glycemic Response," *Diabetes*, vol. 33, Dec. 1984, pp. 1200-1202.
- Shichiri, Motoaki, et al., "Glycaemic Control in a Pancreatectomized Dog with a Wearable Artificial Endocrine Pancreas," *Diabetologia*, vol. 24, 1983, pp. 179-184.
- Shichiri, M., et al., "In Vivo Characteristics of Needle-Type Glucose Sensor—Measurements of Subcutaneous Glucose Concentrations in Human Volunteers," *Hormone and Metabolic Research, Supplement Series Vol. No. 20*, 1988, pp. 17-20.
- Shichiri, M., et al., "Membrane design for extending the long-life of an implantable glucose sensor," *Diab. Nutr. Metab.*, vol. 2, No. 4, 1989, pp. 309-313.
- Shichiri, Motoaki, et al., "Normalization of the Paradoxical Secretion of Glucagon in Diabetes Who Were Controlled by the Artificial Beta Cell," *Diabetes*, vol. 28, Apr. 1979, pp. 272-275.
- Shichiri, Motoaki, et al., "Telemetry Glucose Monitoring Device with Needle-Type Glucose Sensor: A useful Tool for Blood Glucose Monitoring in Diabetic Individuals," *Diabetes Care*, vol. 9, No. 3, May-Jun. 1986, pp. 298-301.
- Shichiri, Motoaki, et al., "Wearable Artificial Endocrine Pancreas with Needle-Type Glucose Sensor," *The Lancet*, Nov. 20, 1982, pp. 1129-1131.
- Shichiri, Motoaki, et al., "The Wearable Artificial Endocrine Pancreas with a Needle-Type Glucose Sensor: Perfect Glycemic Control in Ambulatory Diabetes," *Acta Paediatr Jpn* 1984, vol. 26, pp. 359-370.
- Shinkai, Seiji, "Molecular Recognition of Mono- and Disaccharides by Phenylboronic Acids in Solvent Extraction and as a Monolayer," *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.*, 1991, pp. 1039-1041.
- Shultz, Mark C., "A Telemetry-Instrumentation System for Monitoring Multiple Subcutaneously Implanted Glucose Sensors," *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering*, vol. 41, No. 10, Oct. 1994, pp. 937-942.
- Sternberg, Robert, et al., "Study and Development of Multilayer Needle-type Enzyme-based Glucose Microsensors," *Biosensors*, vol. 4, 1988, pp. 27-40.
- Tamiya, E., et al., "Micro Glucose Sensors using Electron Mediators Immobilized on a Polypyrrole-Modified Electrode," *Sensors and Actuators*, vol. 18, 1989, pp. 297-307.
- Tsukagoshi, Kazuhiko, et al., "Specific Complexation with Mono- and Disaccharides that can be Detected by Circular Dichroism," *J. Org. Chem.*, vol. 56, 1991, pp. 4089-4091.
- Urban, G., et al., "Miniaturized multi-enzyme biosensors integrated with pH sensors on flexible polymer carriers for in vivo applications," *Biosensors & Bioelectronics*, vol. 7, 1992, pp. 733-739.
- Urban, G., et al., "Miniaturized thin-film biosensors using covalently immobilized glucose oxidase," *Biosensors & Bioelectronics*, vol. 6, 1991, pp. 555-562.
- Velho, G., et al., "In vivo calibration of a subcutaneous glucose sensor for determination of subcutaneous glucose kinetics," *Diab. Nutr. Metab.*, vol. 3, 1988, pp. 227-233.
- Wang, Joseph, et al., "Needle-Type Dual Microsensor for the Simultaneous Monitoring of Glucose and Insulin," *Analytical Chemistry*, vol. 73, 2001, pp. 844-847.
- Yamasaki, Yoshimitsu, et al., "Direct Measurement of Whole Blood Glucose by a Needle-Type Sensor," *Clinica Chimica Acta*, vol. 93, 1989, pp. 93-98.
- Yokoyama, K., "Integrated Biosensor for Glucose and Galactose," *Analytica Chimica Acta*, vol. 218, 1989, pp. 137-142.

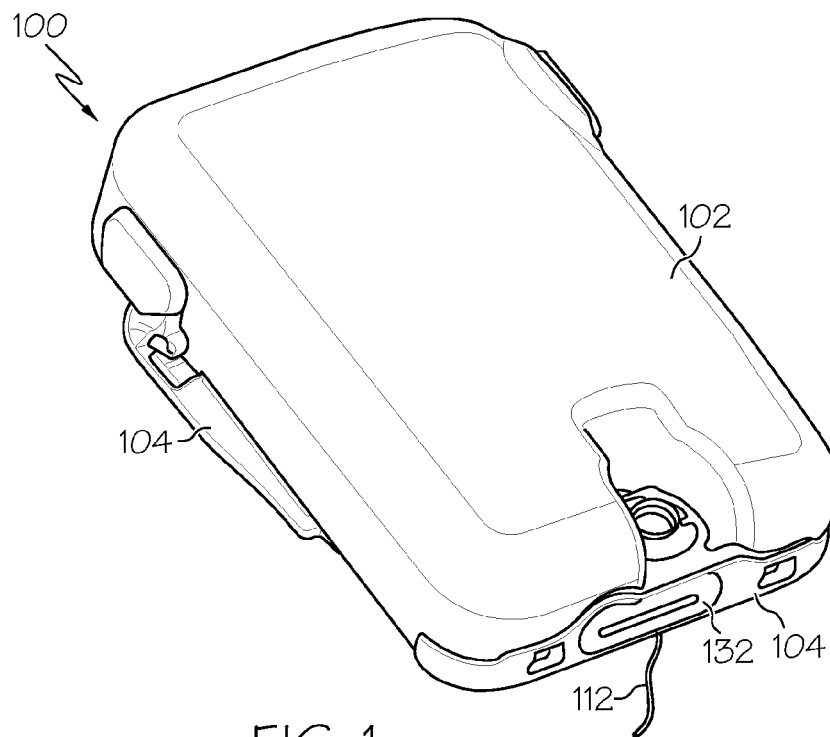


FIG. 1

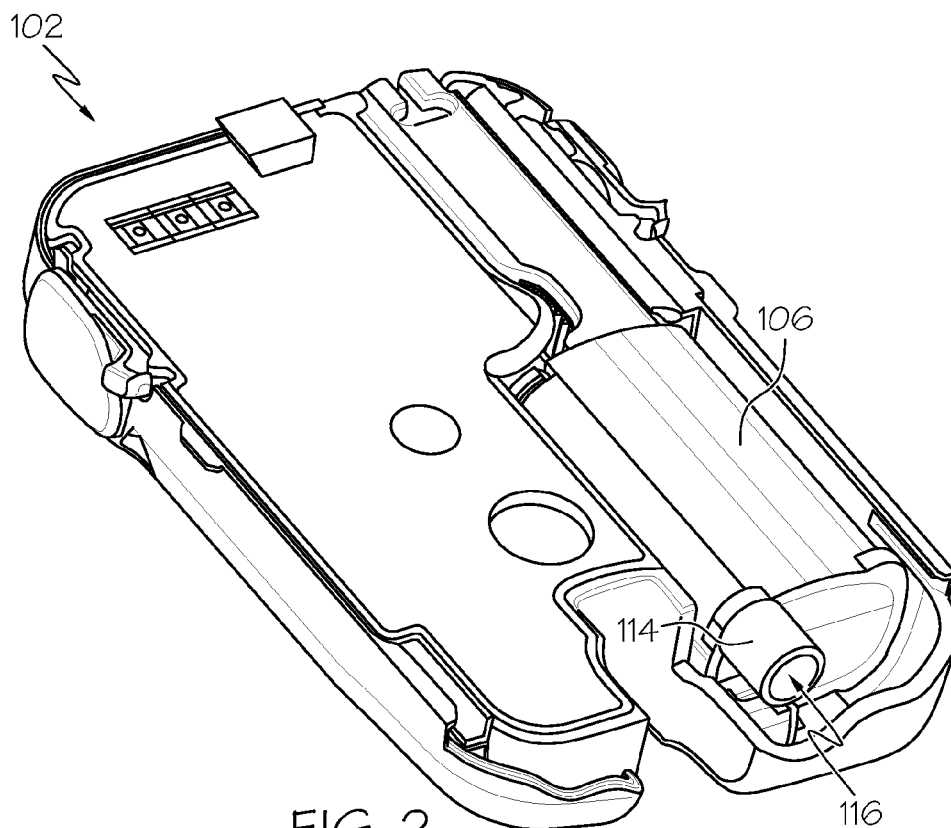


FIG. 2

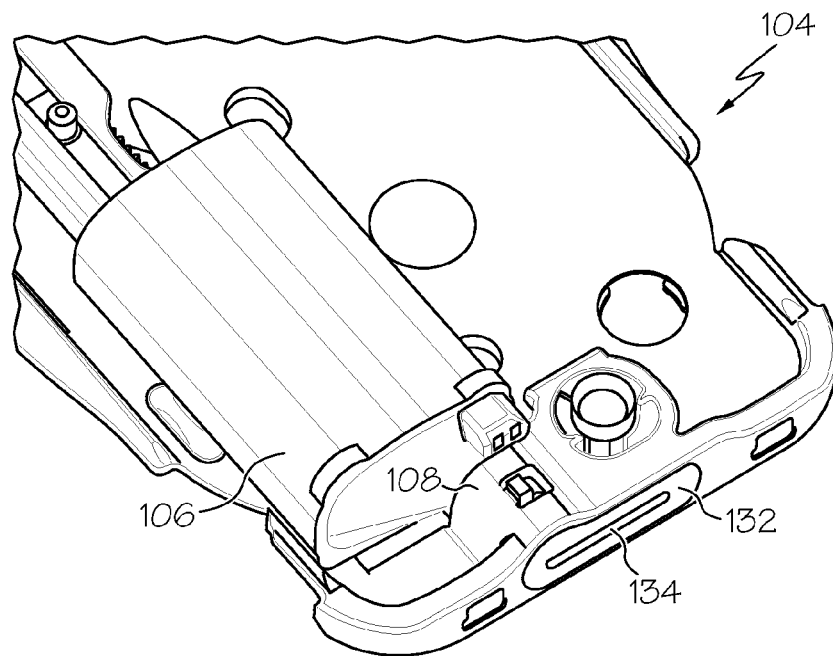


FIG. 3

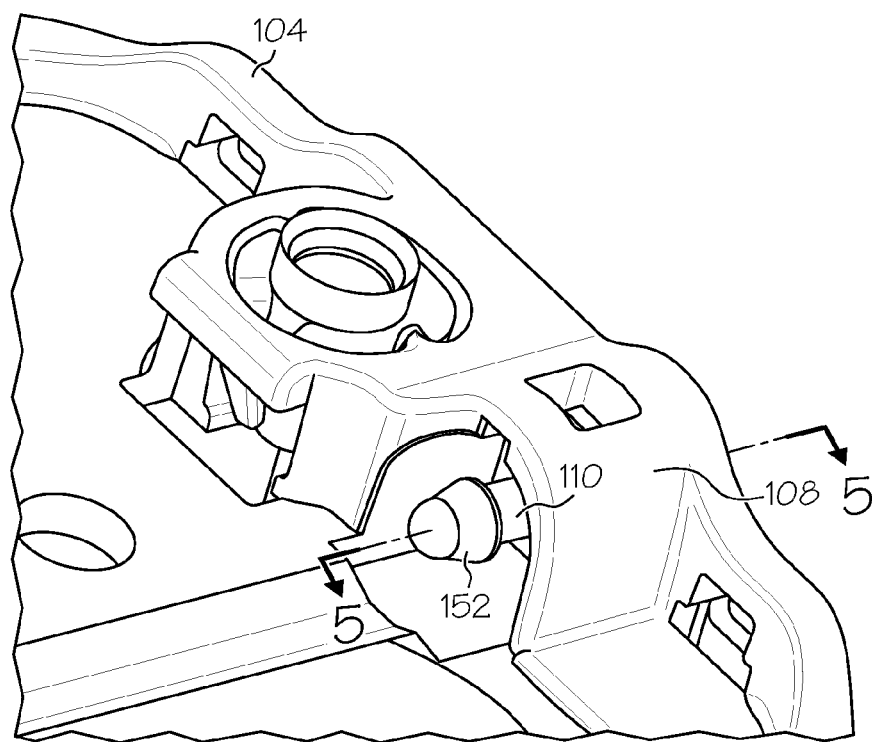


FIG. 4

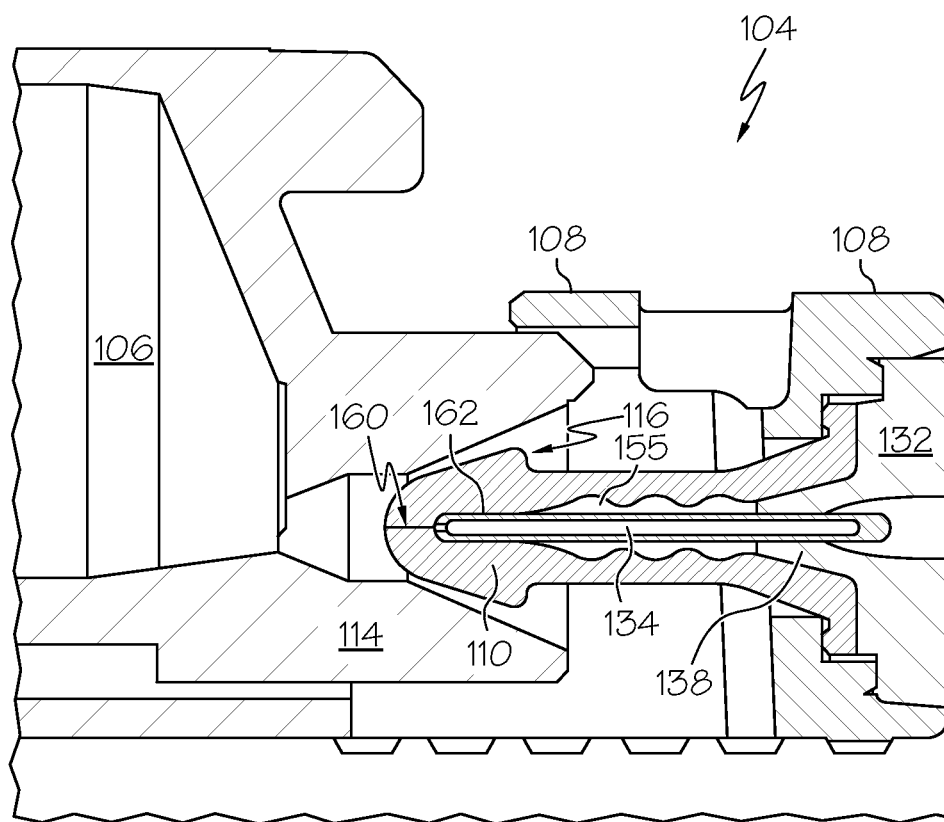


FIG. 5

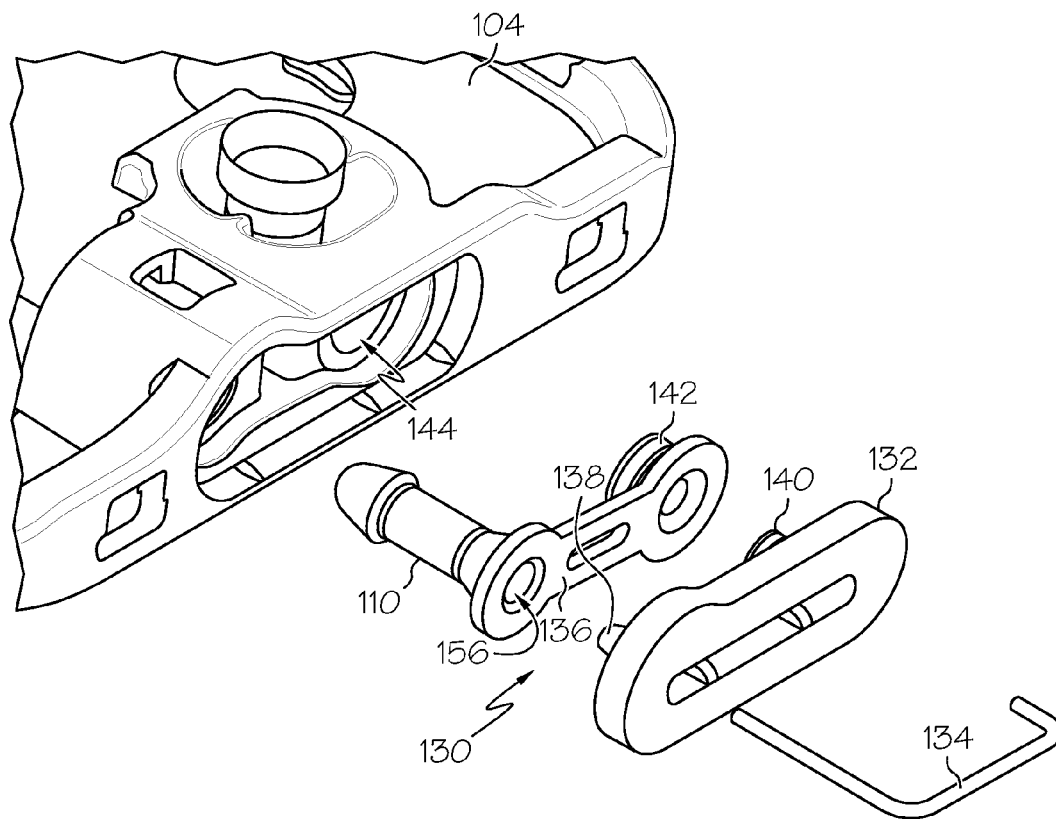


FIG. 6

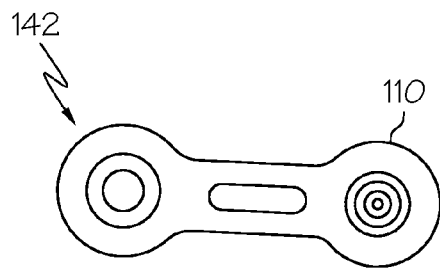


FIG. 7

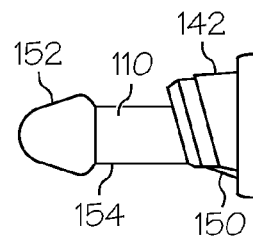


FIG. 8

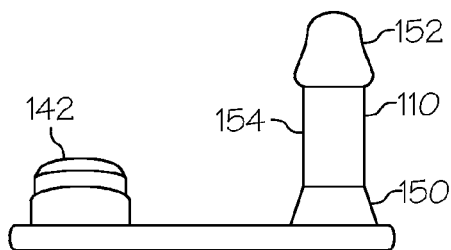


FIG. 9

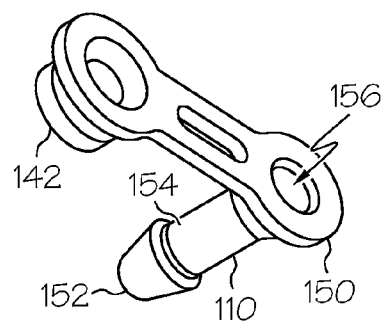


FIG. 10

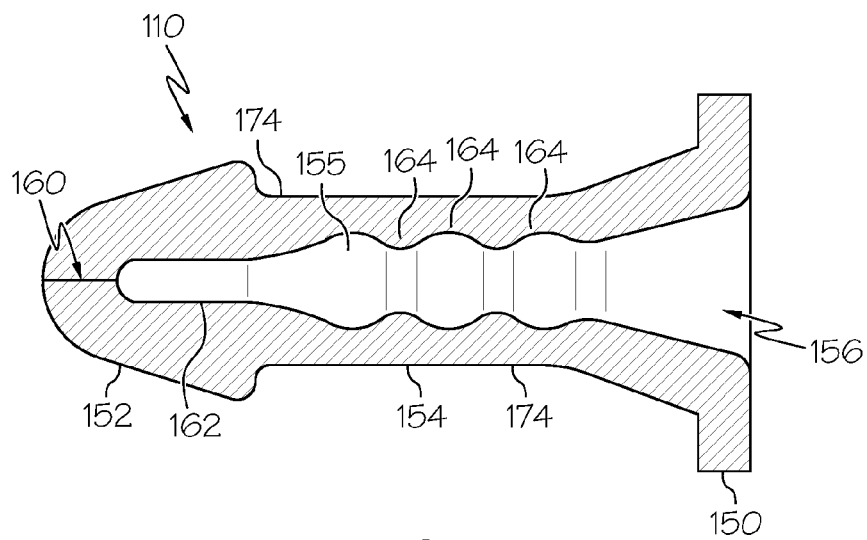


FIG. 11

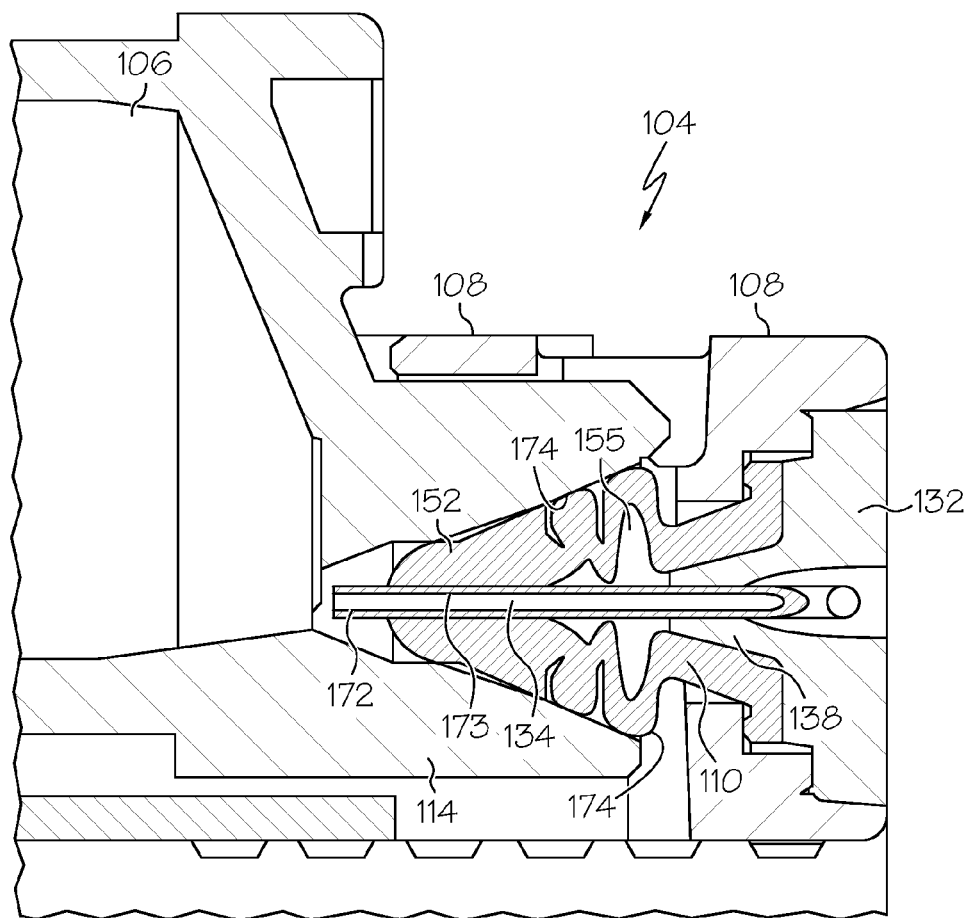


FIG. 12

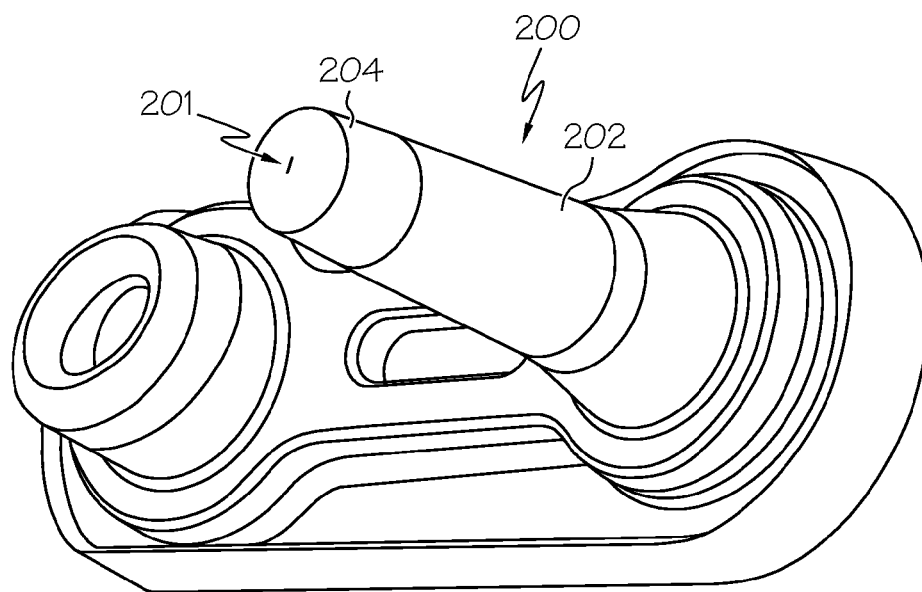


FIG. 13

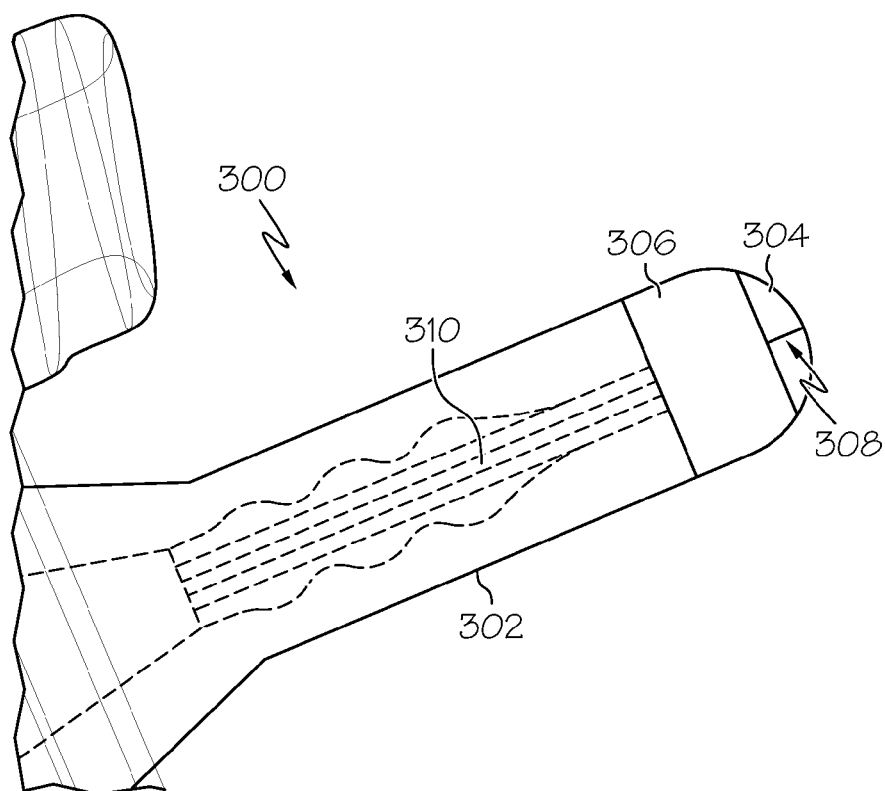


FIG. 14

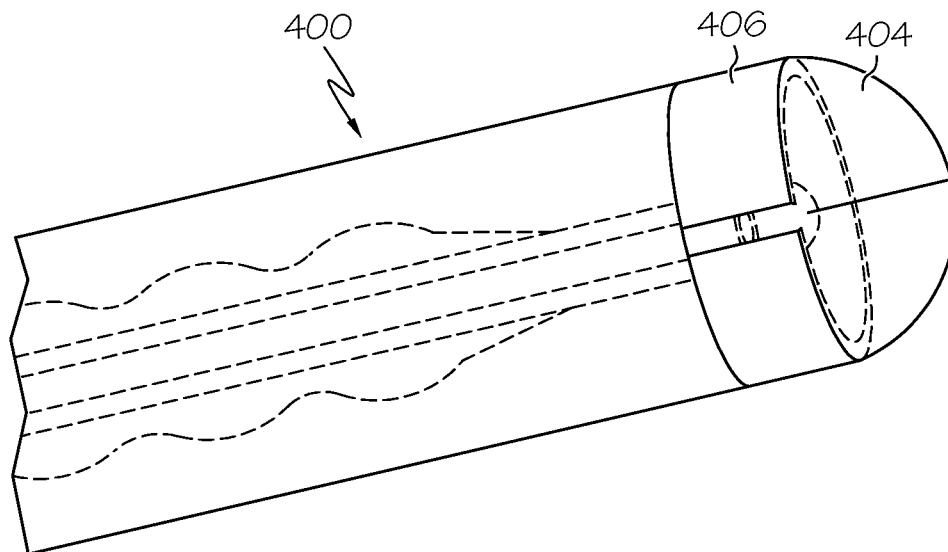


FIG. 15

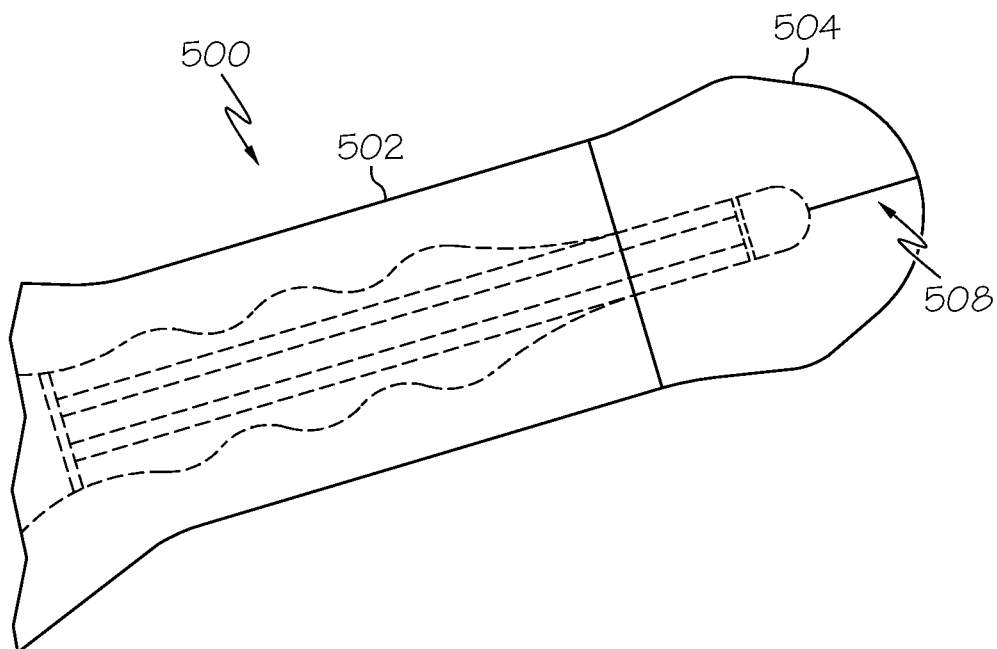


FIG. 16

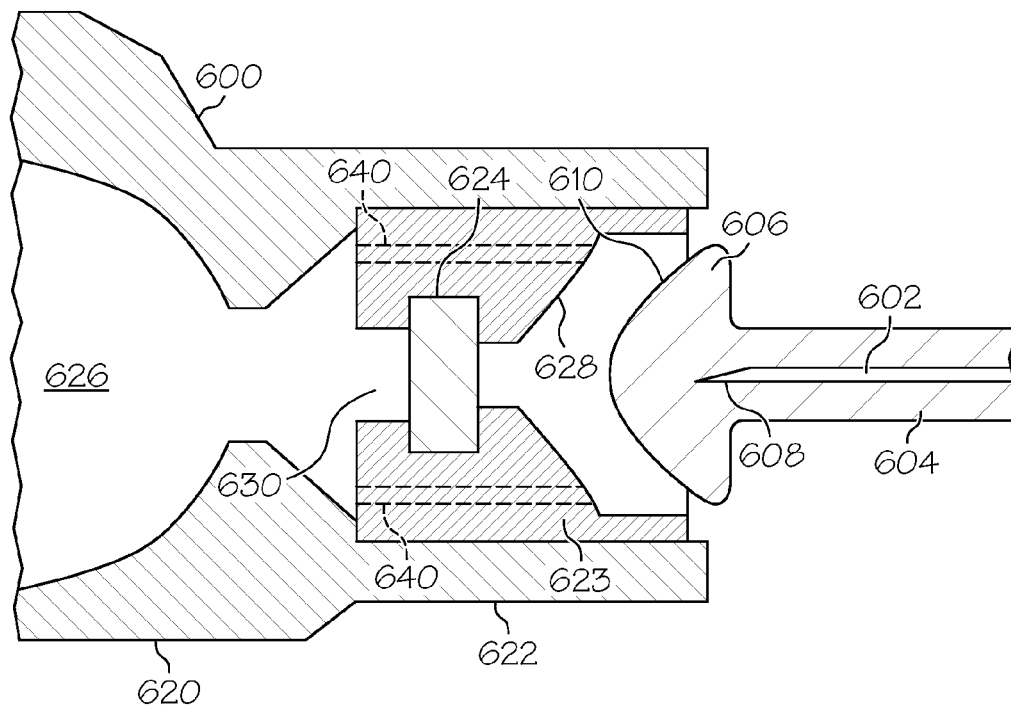


FIG. 17

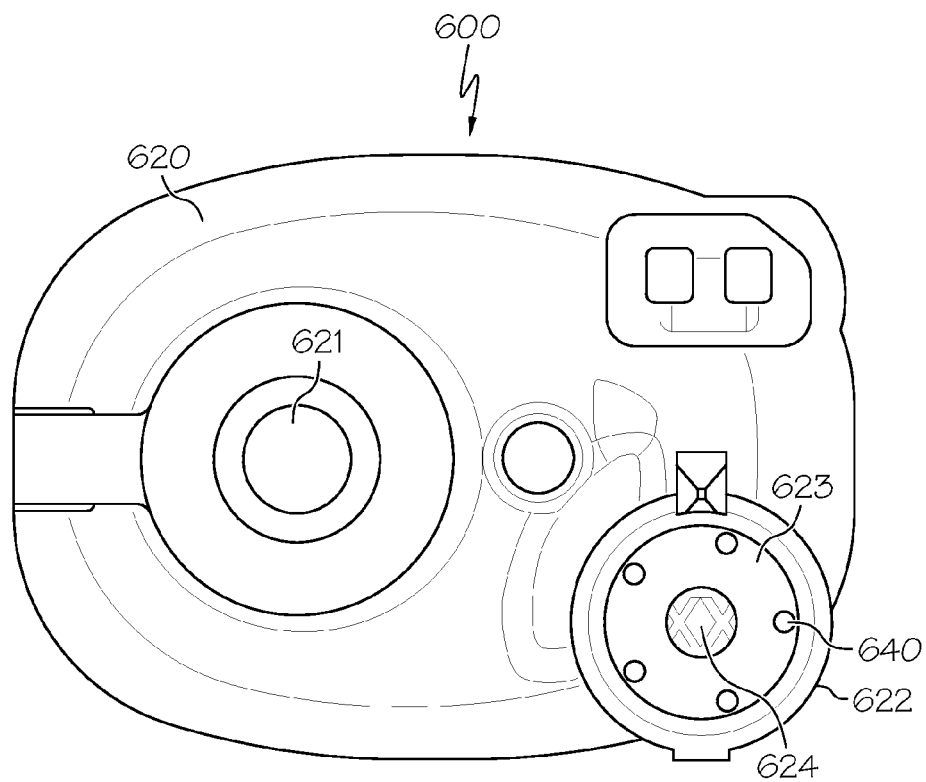


FIG. 18

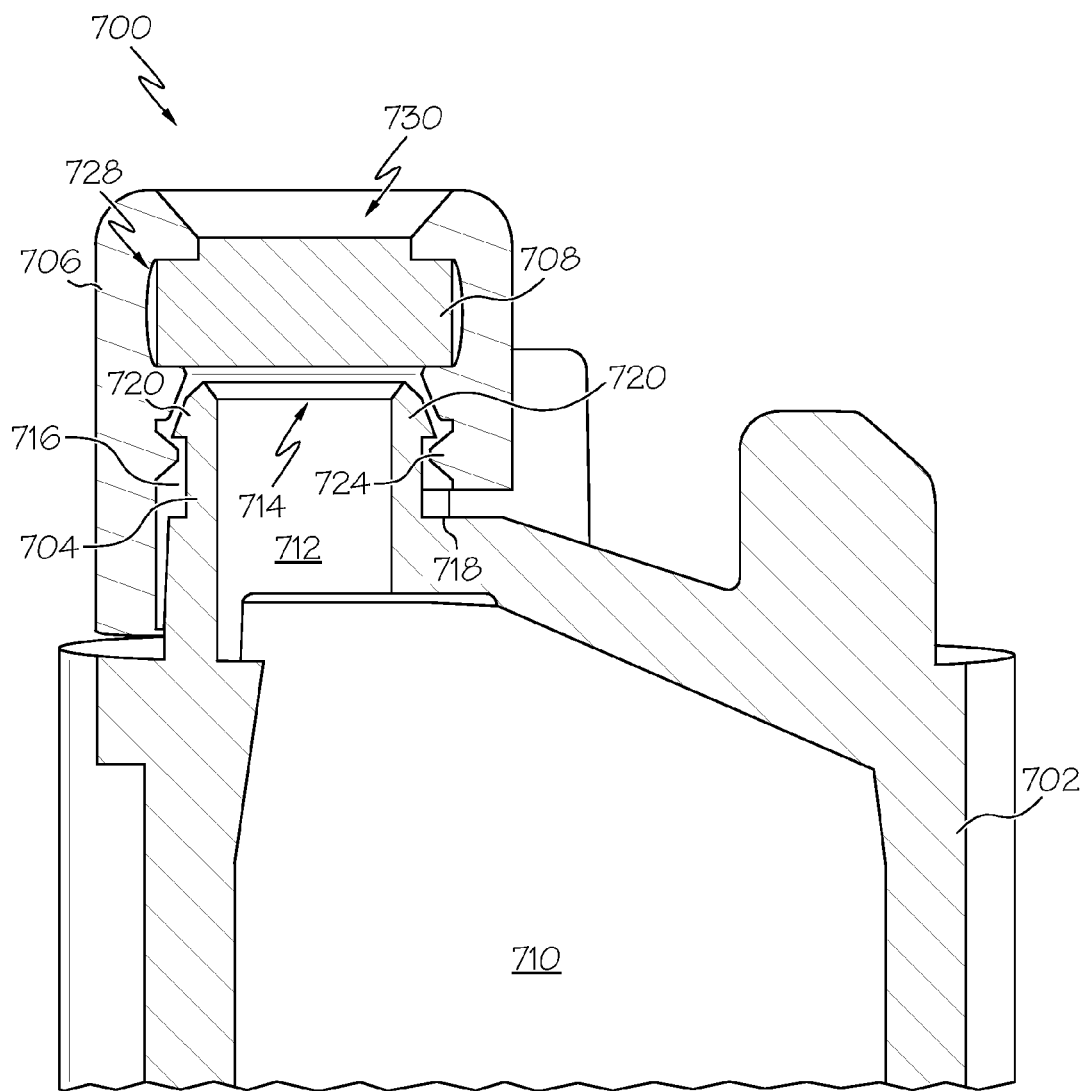


FIG. 19

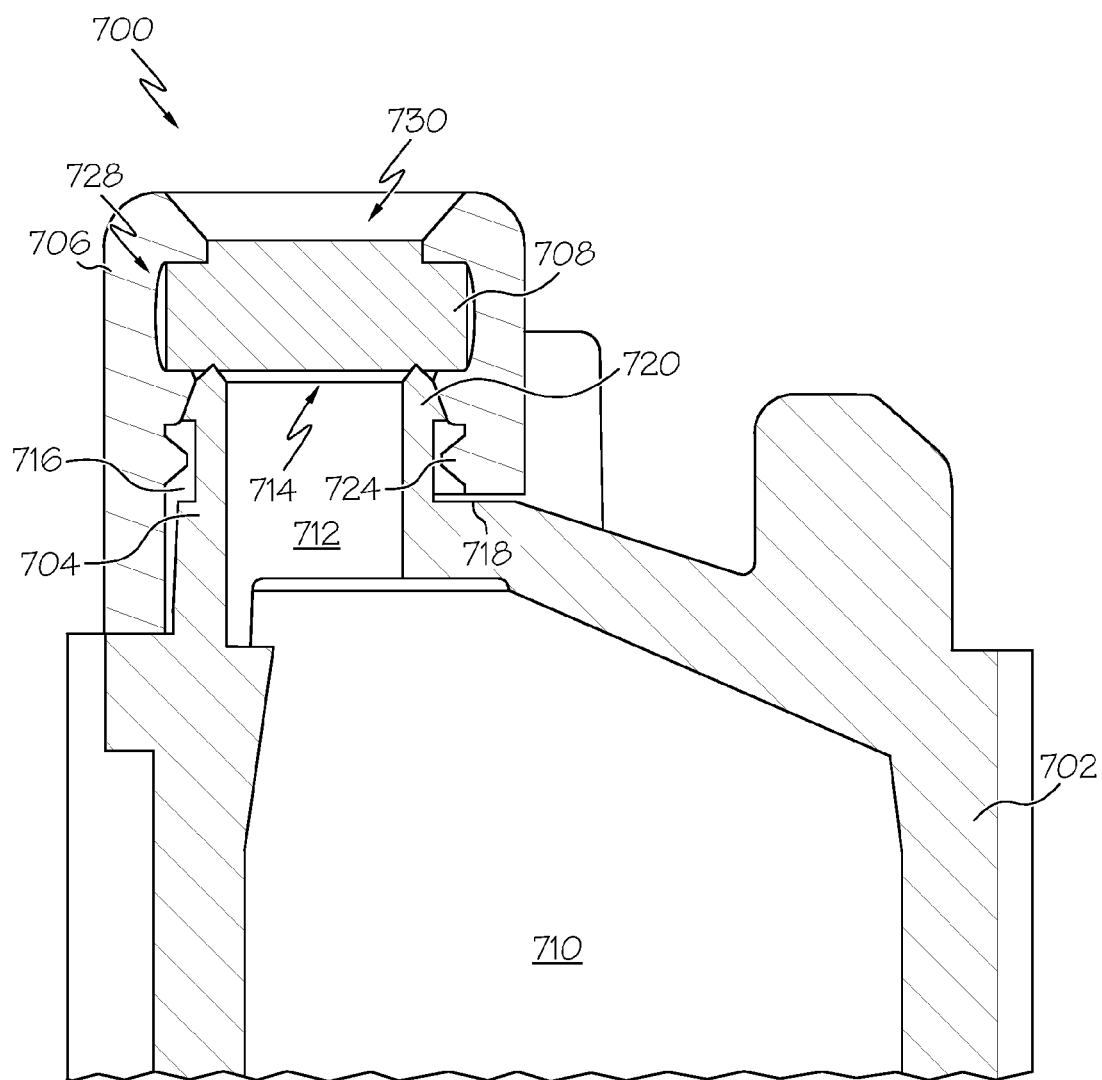


FIG. 20

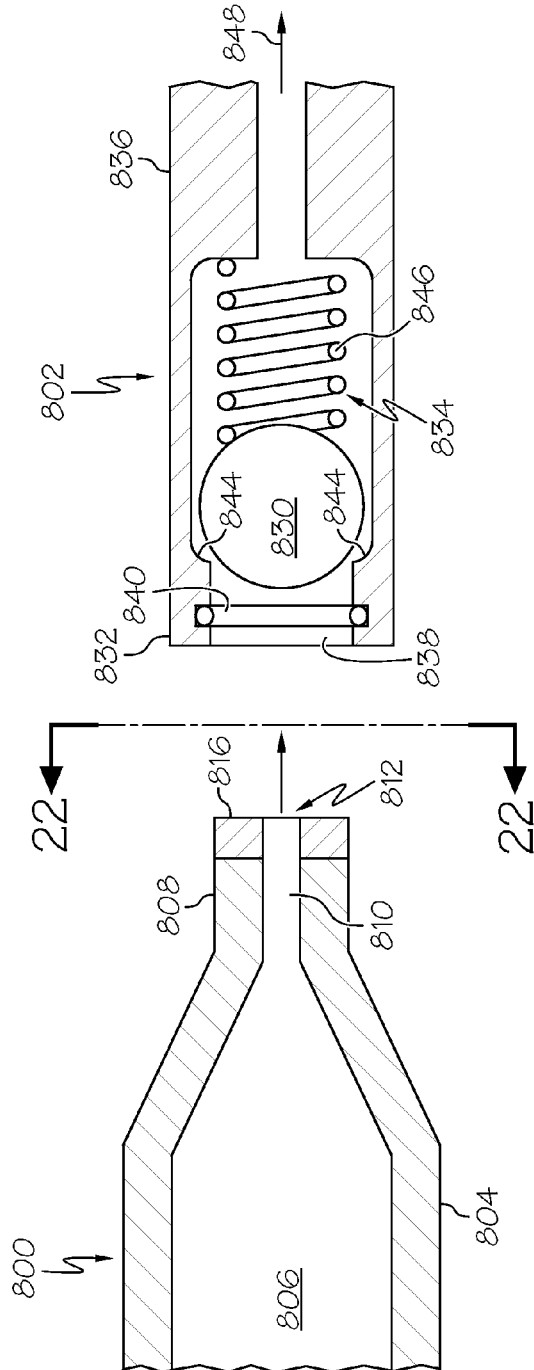


FIG. 21

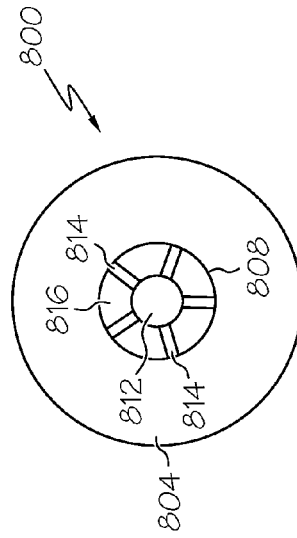
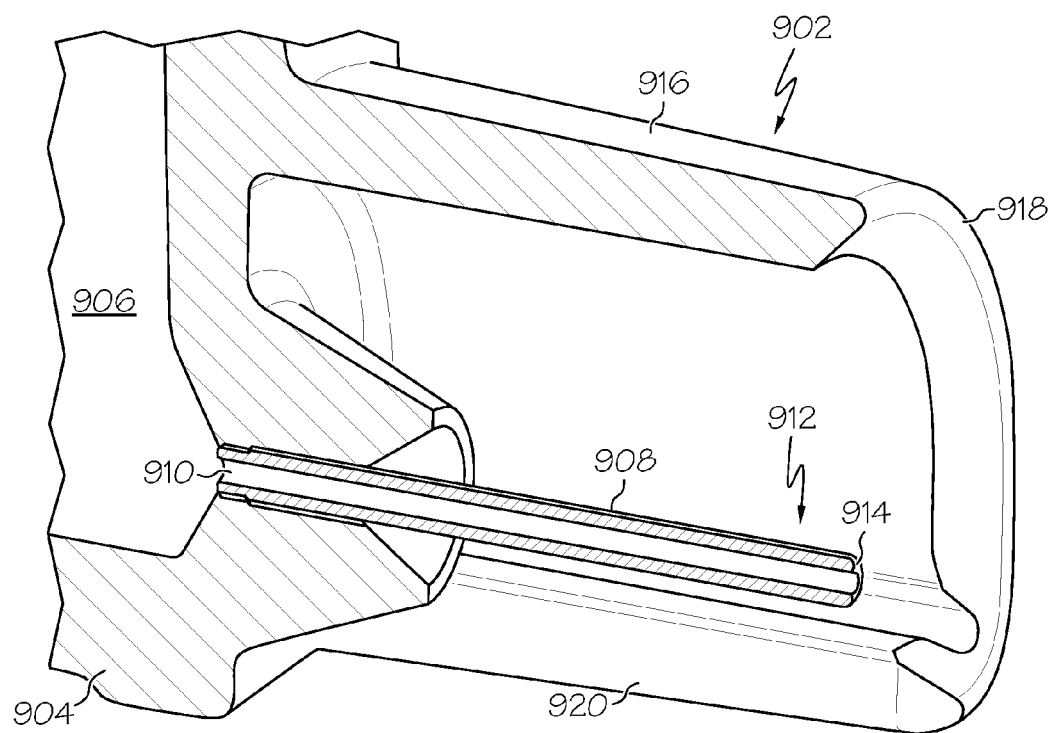
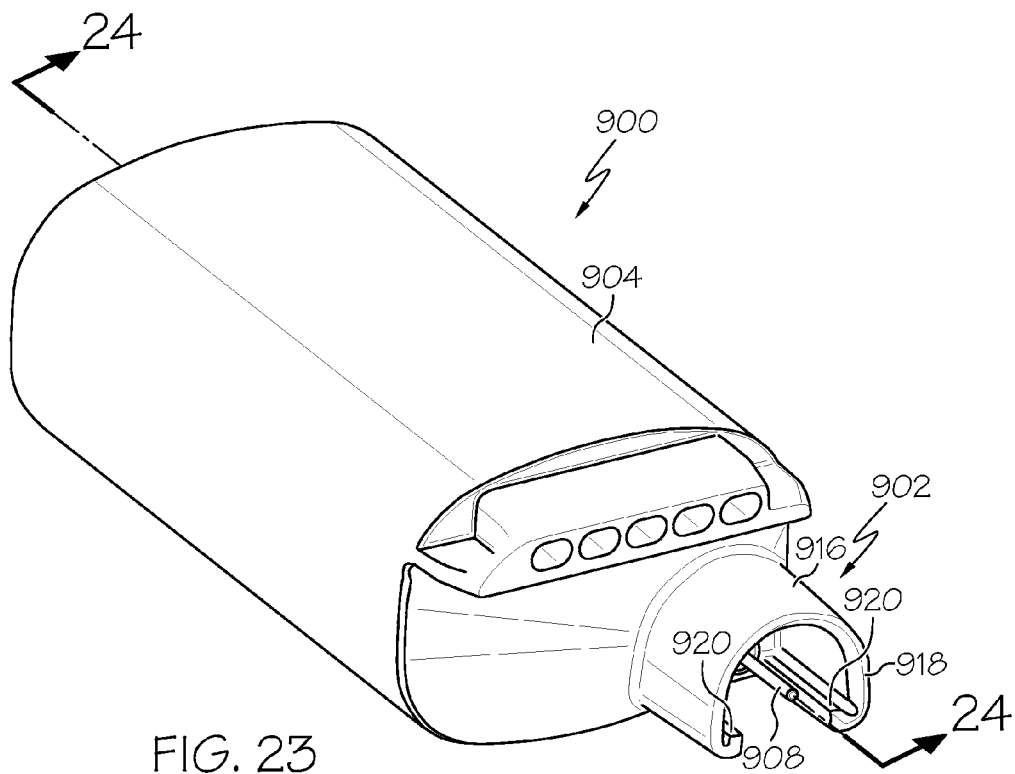


FIG. 22



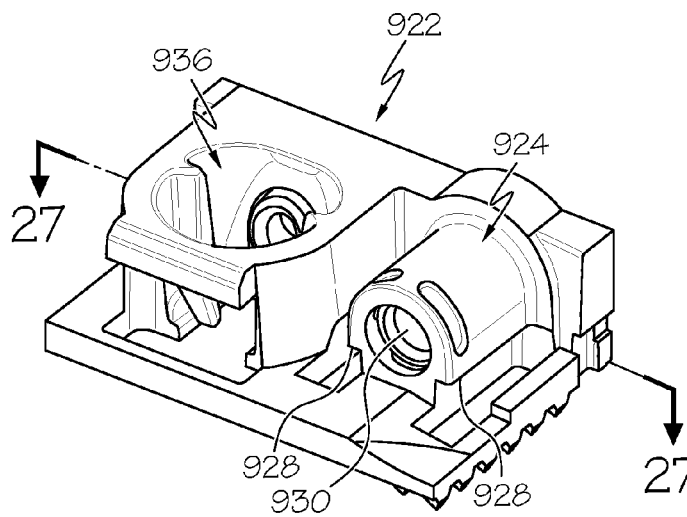


FIG. 25

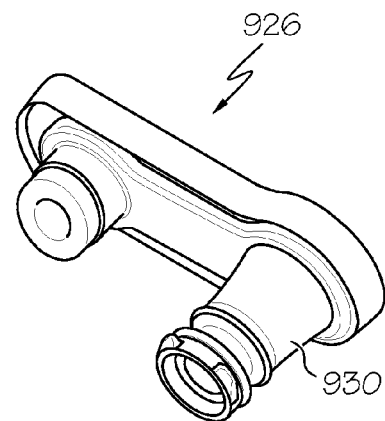


FIG. 26

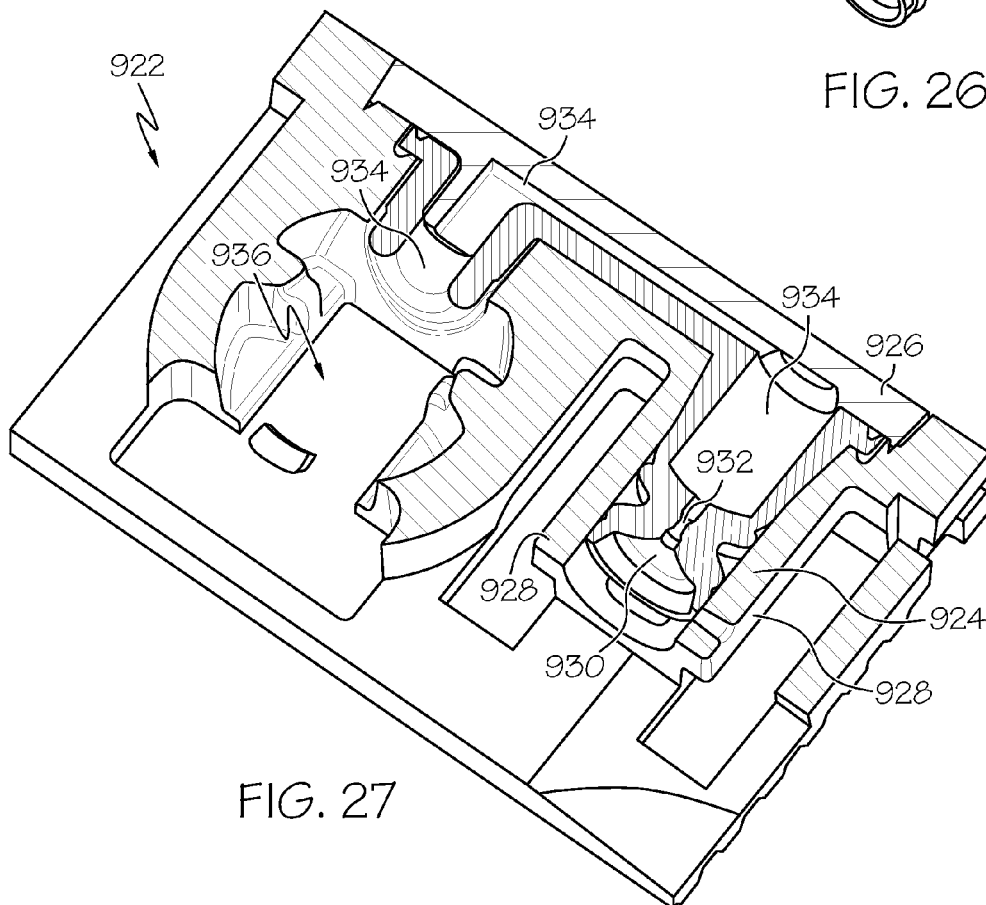
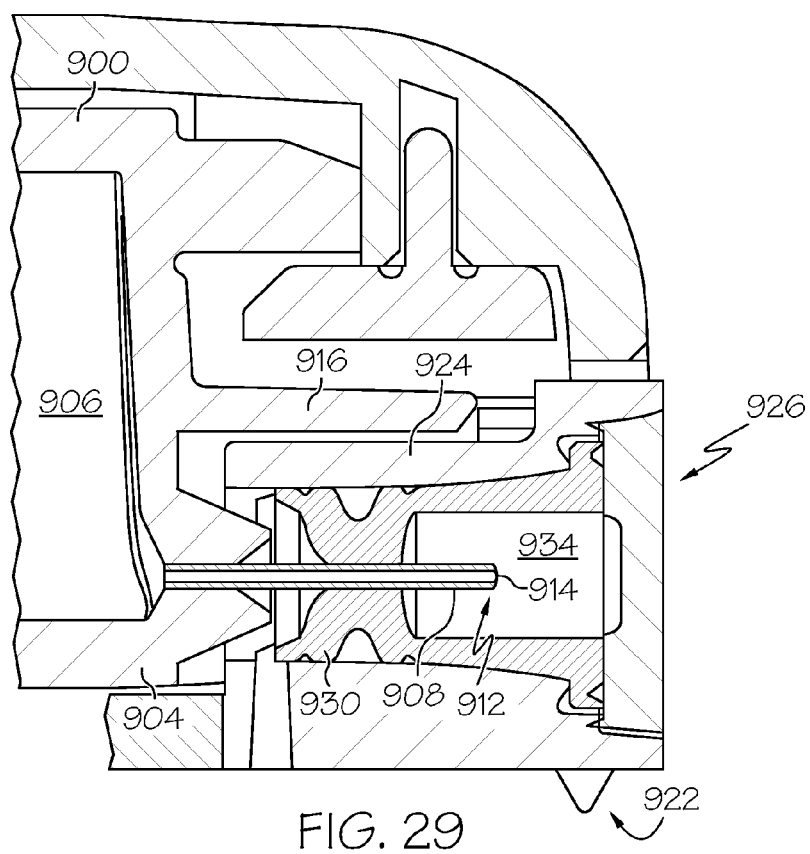
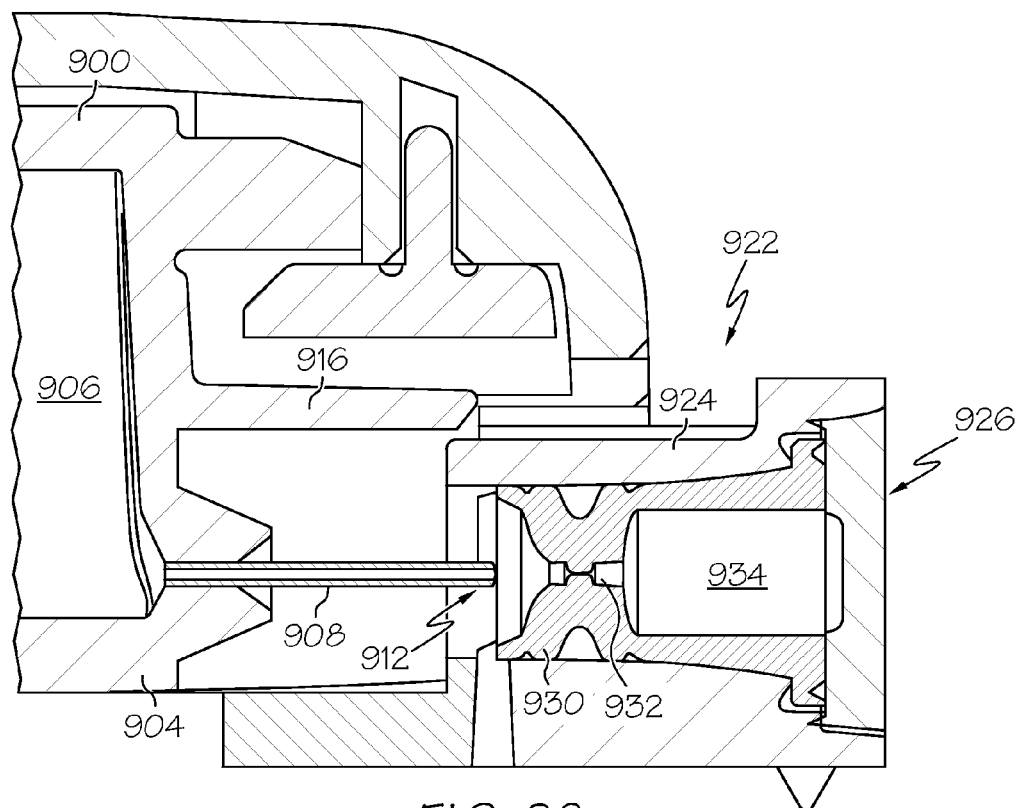


FIG. 27



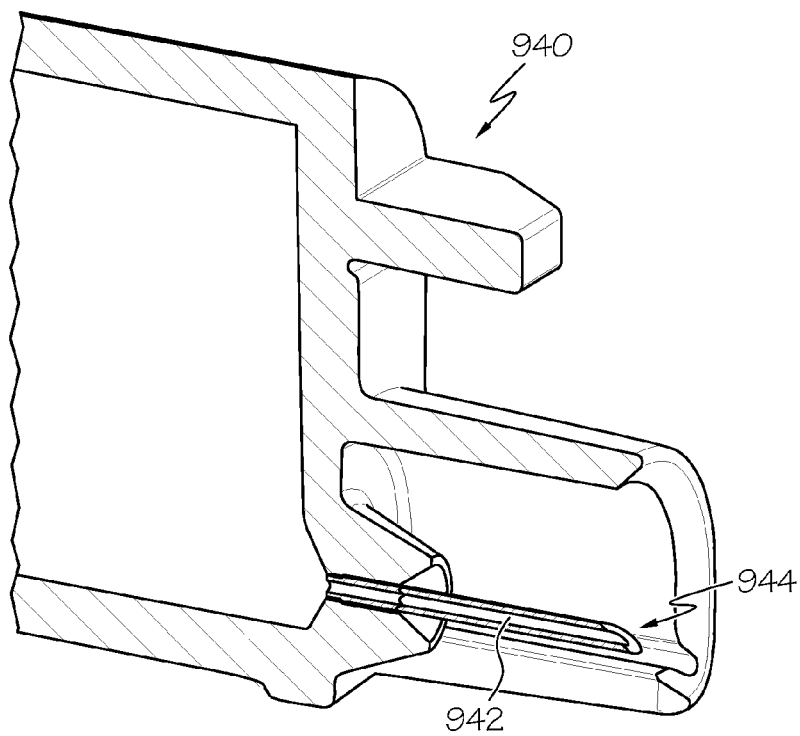


FIG. 30

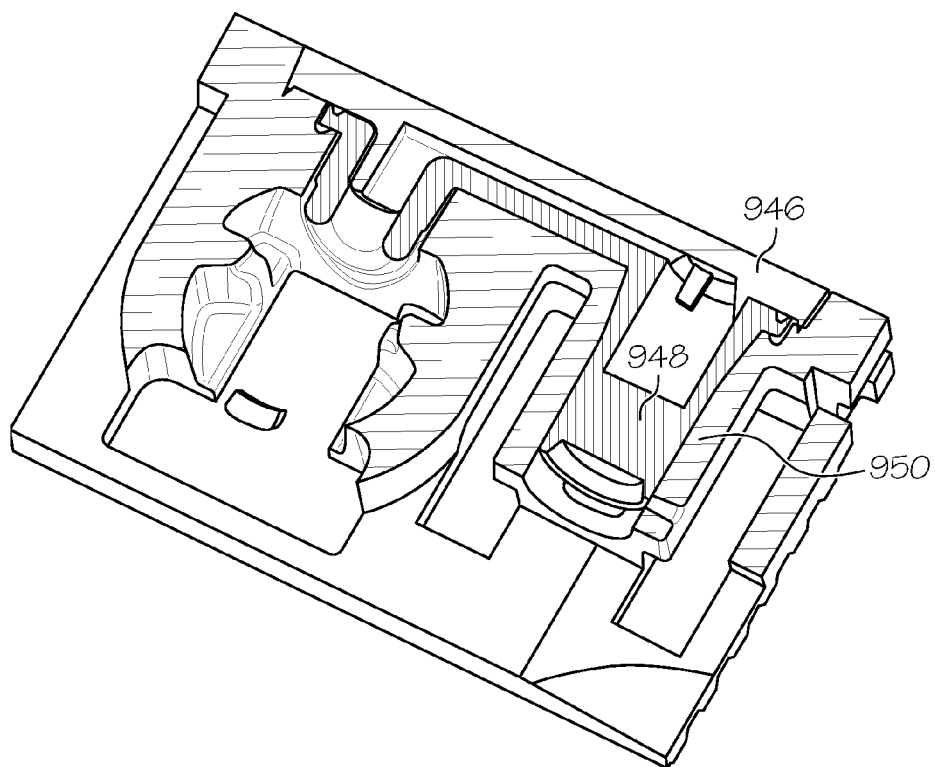


FIG. 31

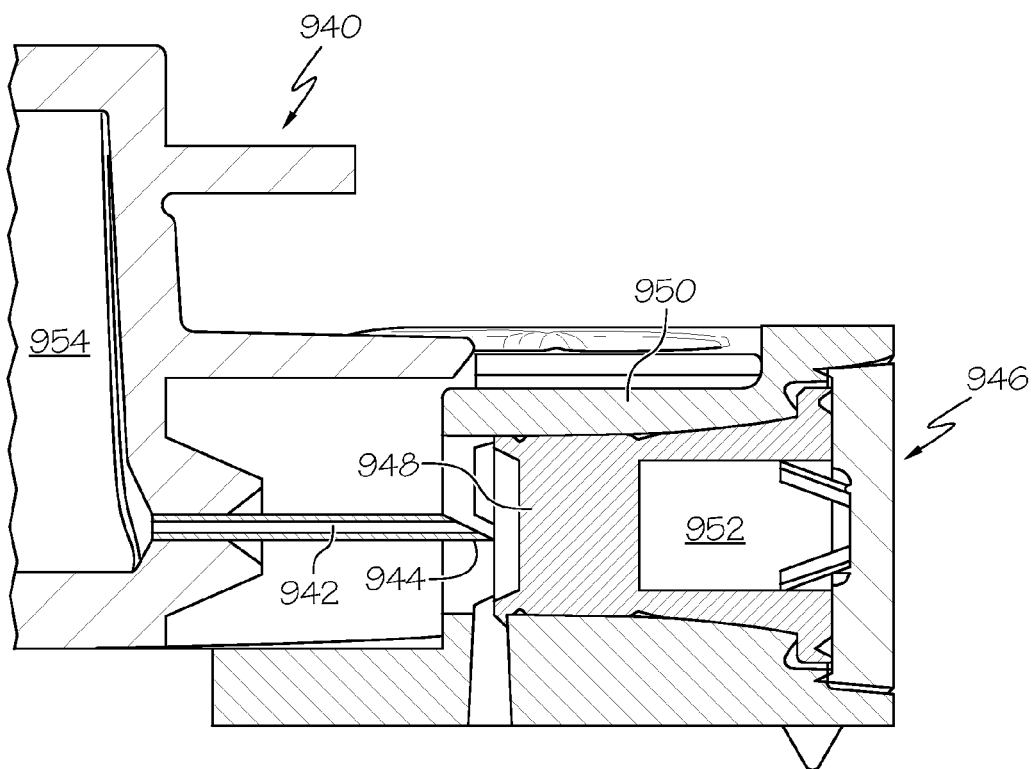


FIG. 32

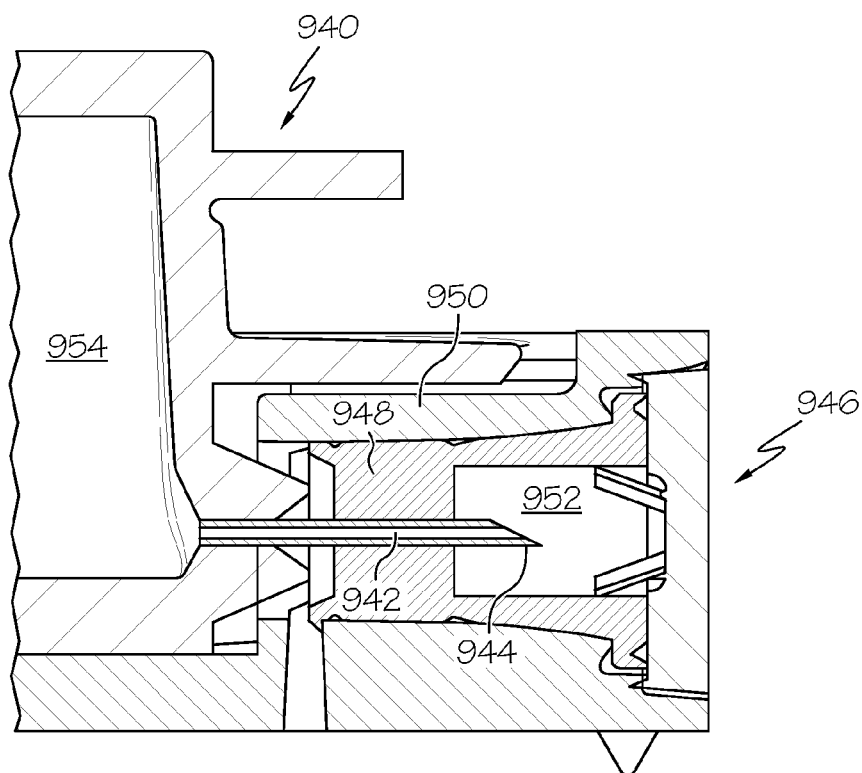


FIG. 33

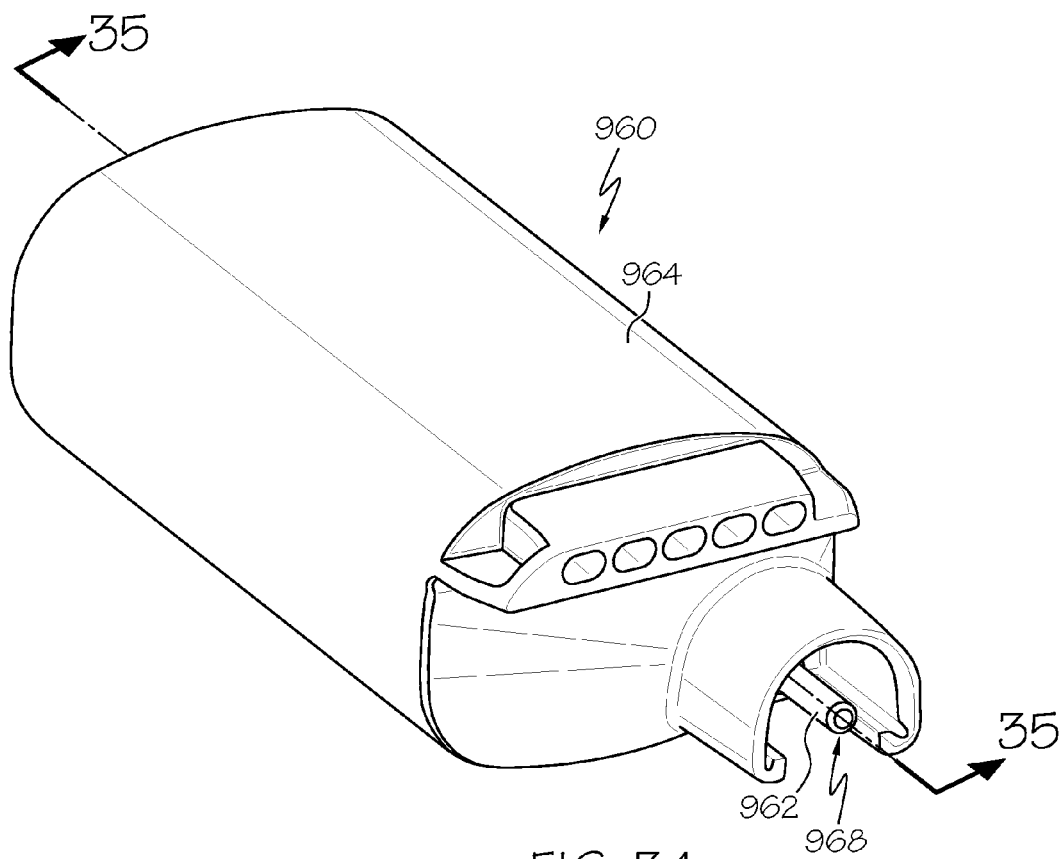


FIG. 34

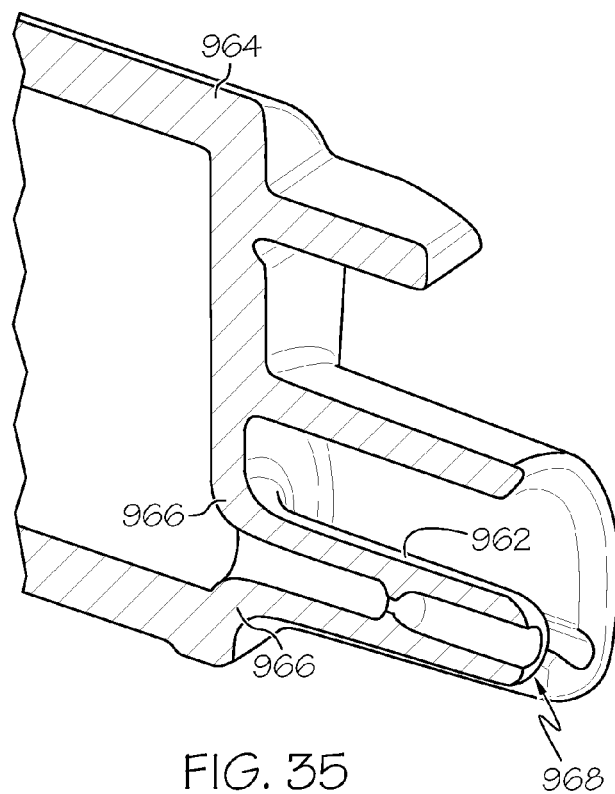


FIG. 35

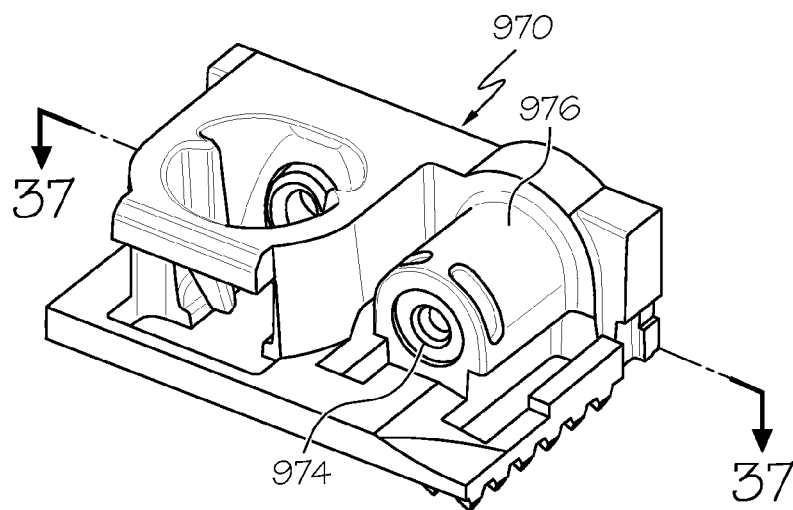


FIG. 36

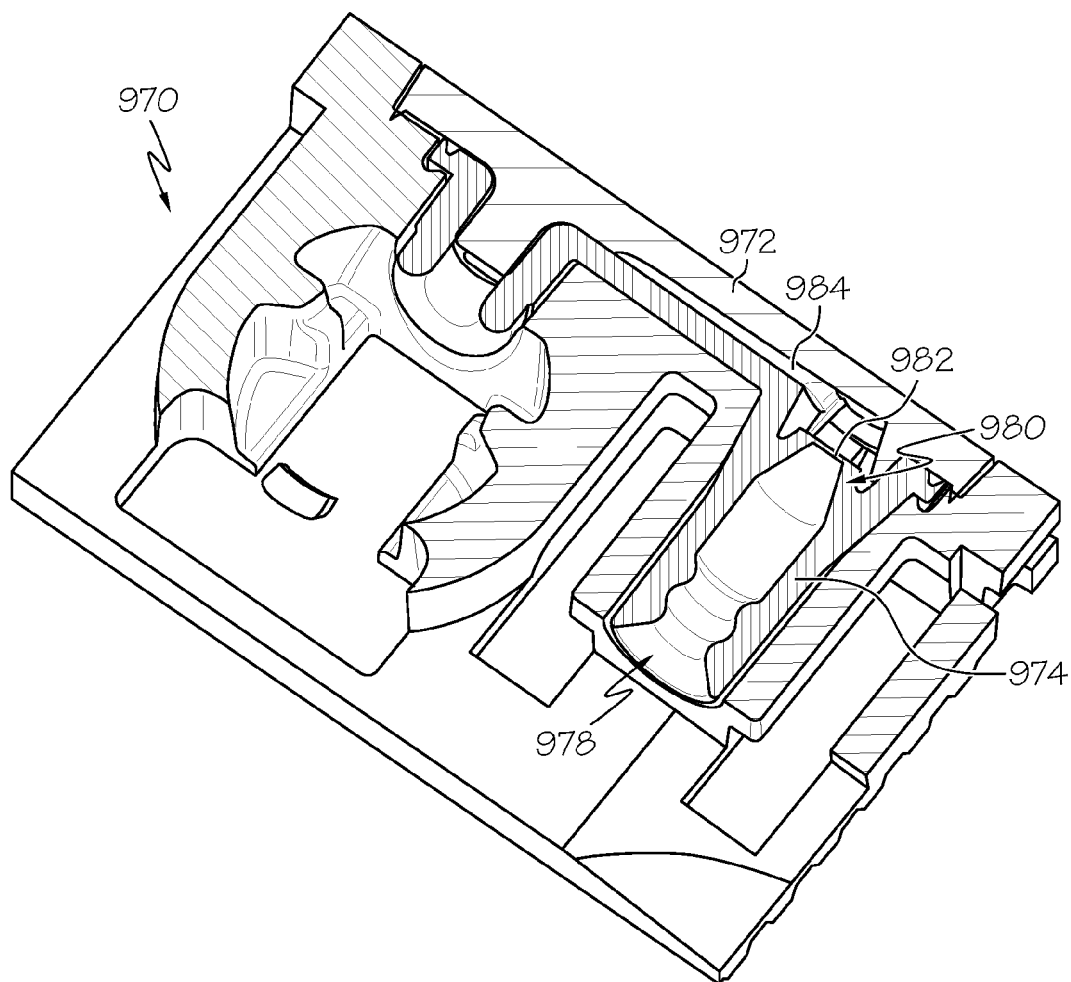
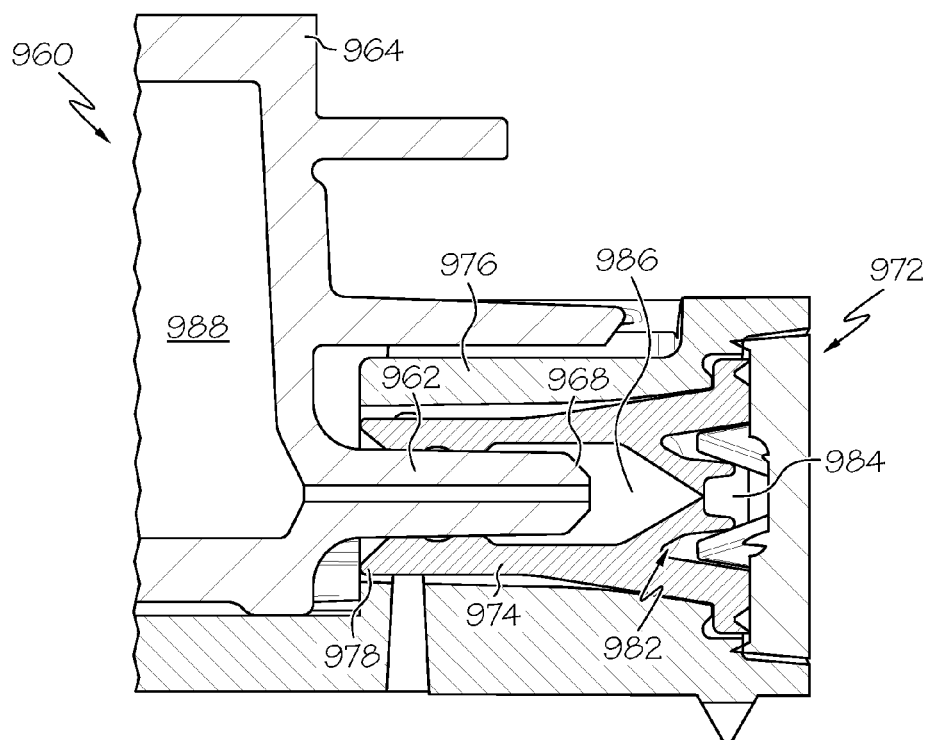
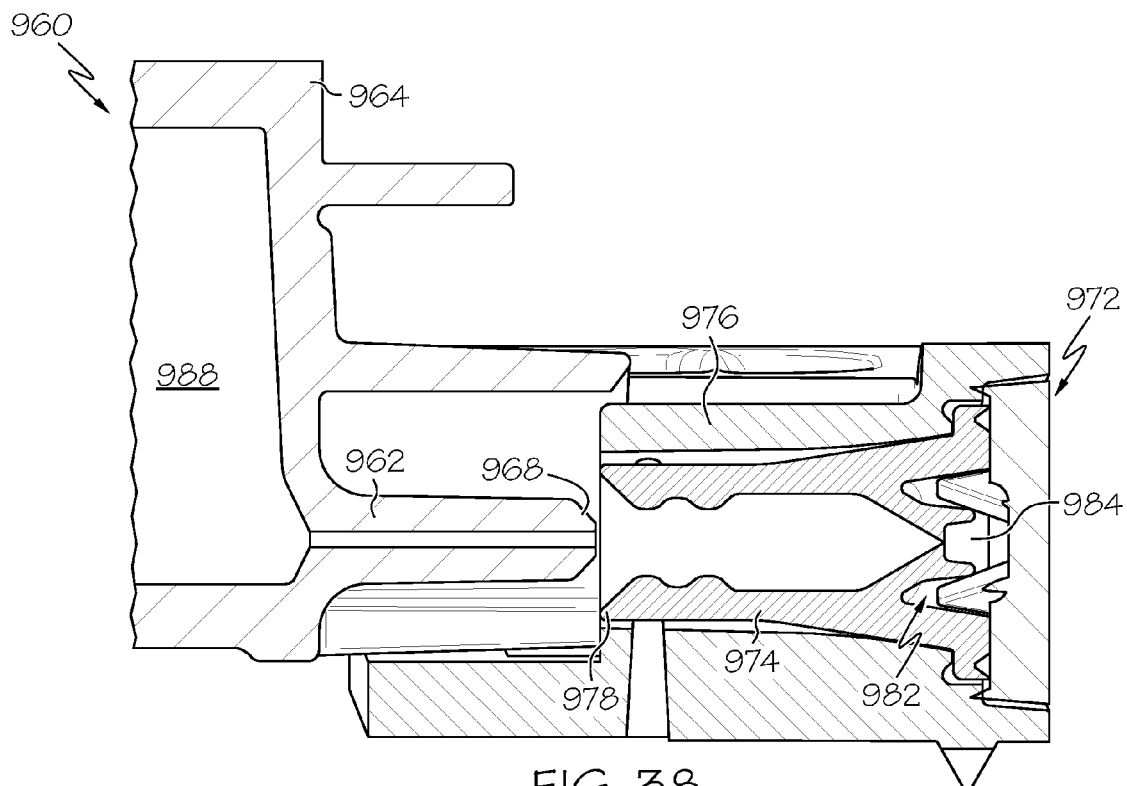


FIG. 37



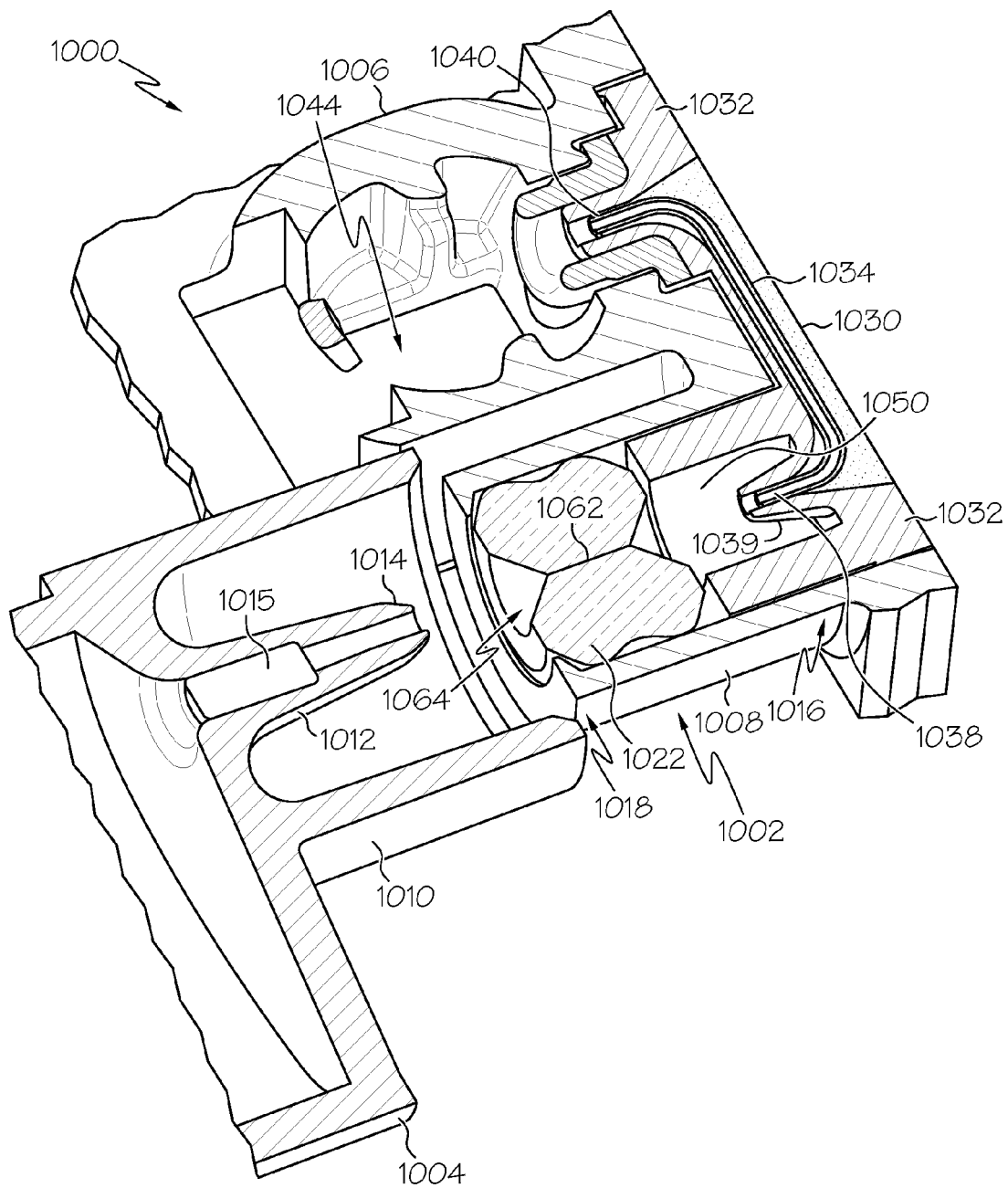


FIG. 40

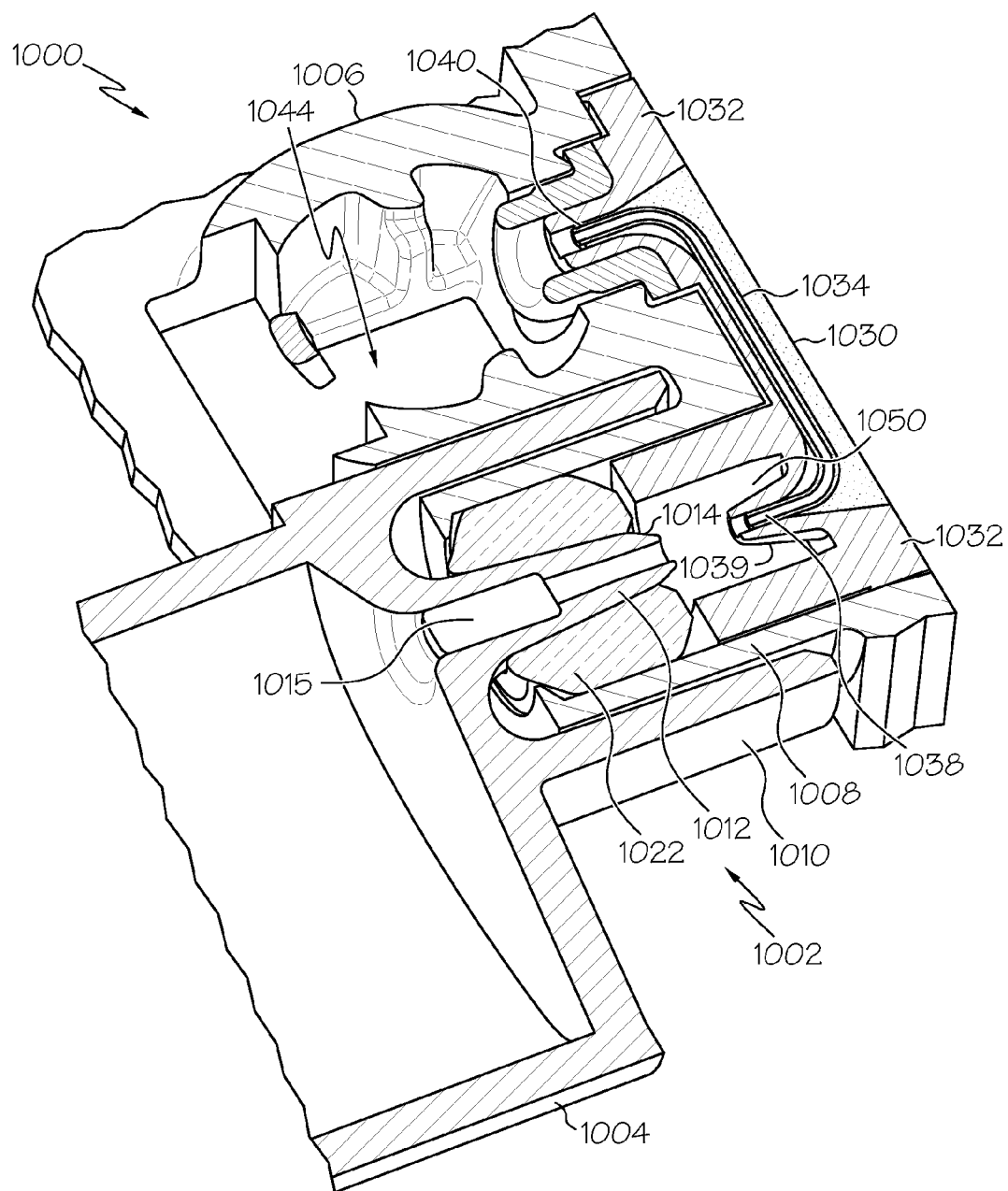


FIG. 41

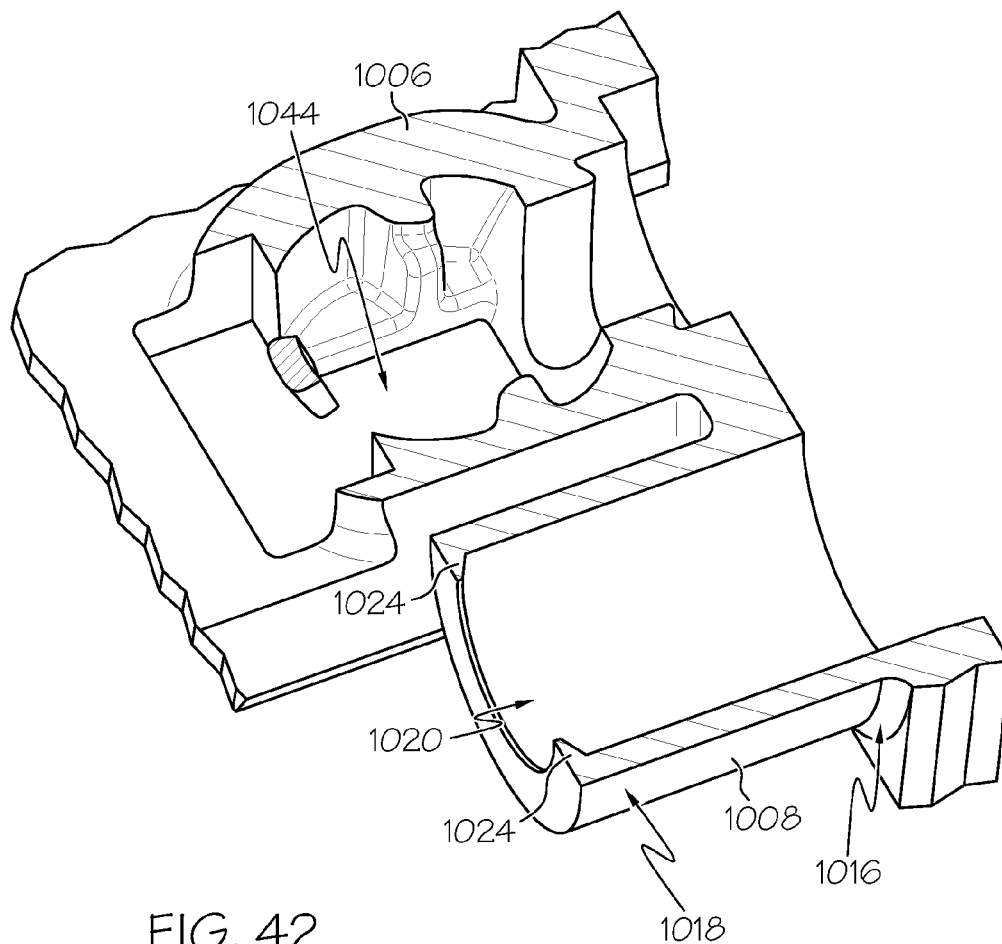


FIG. 42

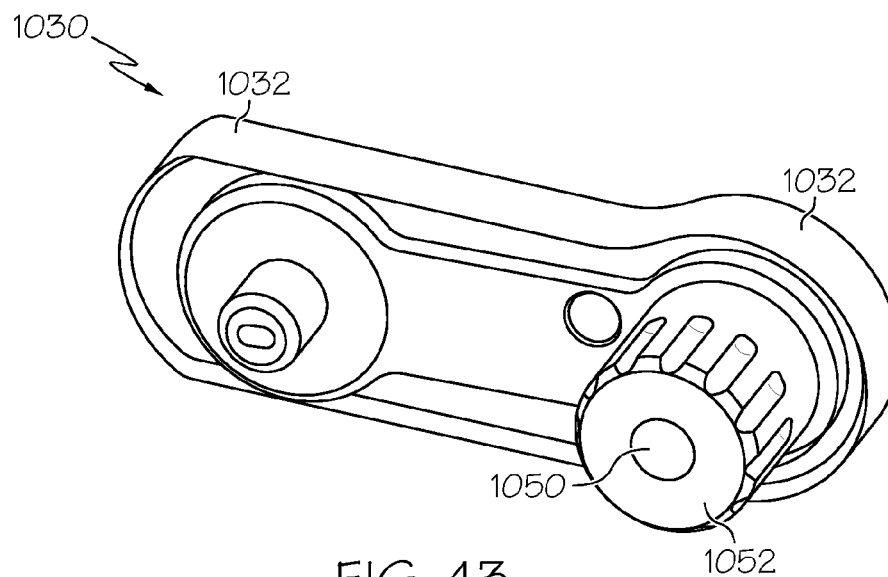


FIG. 43

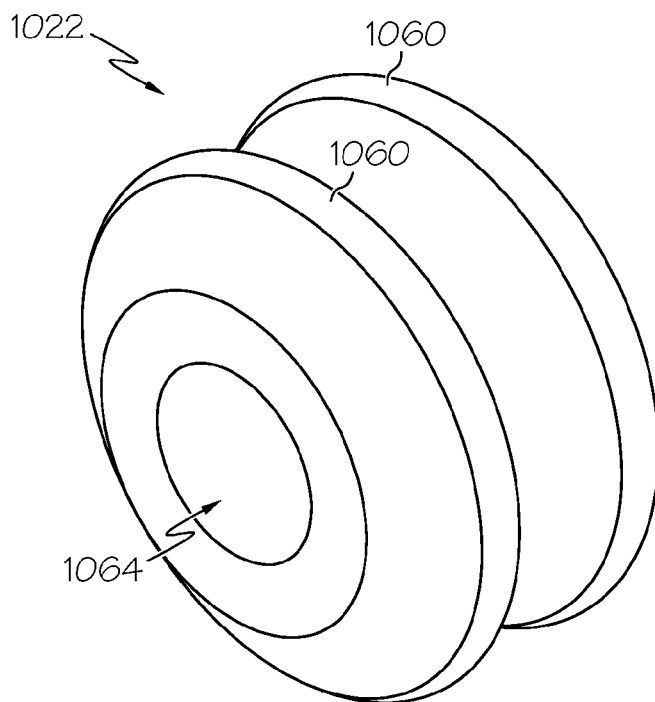


FIG. 44

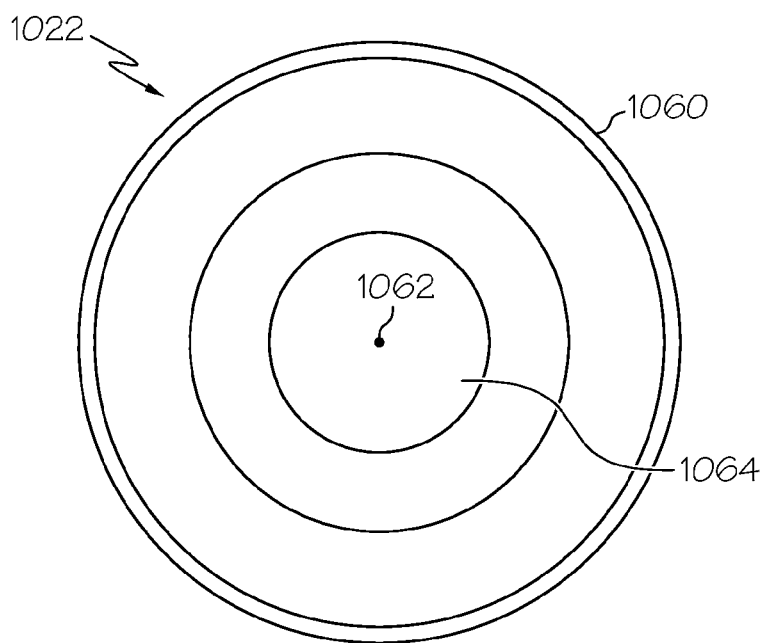


FIG. 45

1

SEALING ASSEMBLY AND STRUCTURE FOR A FLUID INFUSION DEVICE HAVING A NEEDED FLUID RESERVOIR

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/399,851, filed Feb. 17, 2012, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application No. 61/445,393, filed Feb. 22, 2011 (now expired). This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/399,857, filed Feb. 17, 2012, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application No. 61/445,393, filed Feb. 22, 2011 (now expired). This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/399,863, filed Feb. 17, 2012, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application No. 61/445,393, filed Feb. 22, 2011 (now expired). This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/399,865, filed Feb. 17, 2012, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application No. 61/445,393, filed Feb. 22, 2011 (now expired). This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/399,870, filed Feb. 17, 2012, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application No. 61/445,393, filed Feb. 22, 2011 (now expired). This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/399,874, filed Feb. 17, 2012, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application No. 61/445,393, filed Feb. 22, 2011 (now expired). This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/399,878, filed Feb. 17, 2012, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application No. 61/445,393, filed Feb. 22, 2011 (now expired).

TECHNICAL FIELD

Embodiments of the subject matter described herein relate generally to fluid infusion devices for delivering a medication fluid to the body of a user. More particularly, embodiments of the subject matter relate to a sealing element that provides a fluid seal between a fluid delivery needle and a removable fluid reservoir.

BACKGROUND

Certain diseases or conditions may be treated, according to modern medical techniques, by delivering a medication or other substance to the body of a patient, either in a continuous manner or at particular times or time intervals within an overall time period. For example, diabetes is commonly treated by delivering defined amounts of insulin to the patient at appropriate times. Some common modes of providing insulin therapy to a patient include delivery of insulin through manually operated syringes and insulin pens. Other modern systems employ programmable fluid infusion devices (e.g., insulin pumps) to deliver controlled amounts of insulin to a patient.

A fluid infusion device suitable for use as an insulin pump may be realized as an external device or an implantable device, which is surgically implanted into the body of the patient. External fluid infusion devices include devices designed for use in a generally stationary location (for example, in a hospital or clinic), and devices configured for ambulatory or portable use (to be carried by a patient). External fluid infusion devices may establish a fluid flow

2

path from a fluid reservoir to the patient via, for example, a suitable hollow tubing. The hollow tubing may be connected to a hollow fluid delivery needle that is designed to pierce the patient's skin to deliver an infusion medium to the body. Alternatively, the hollow tubing may be connected directly to the patient's body through a cannula or set of micro-needles.

The fluid reservoir of an external fluid infusion device may be realized as a single-use prefilled disposable unit, a patient-filled unit, a refillable unit, or the like. The fluid reservoir for a typical fluid infusion device is implemented as a removable and replaceable component. To this end, the fluid infusion device includes structure, features, and/or elements that are designed to establish the fluid flow path with the fluid reservoir. For example, a fluid seal between the fluid reservoir and a hollow fluid delivery needle may be established when the fluid reservoir is properly installed in the fluid infusion device. When the fluid reservoir is removed (for purposes of replacement, to allow certain activities such as swimming or bathing, or the like), the fluid delivery needle should be protected against contamination.

Accordingly, it is desirable to implement a sealing element that creates a seal between a removable fluid reservoir and a delivery needle of a fluid infusion device. Furthermore, other desirable features and characteristics will become apparent from the subsequent detailed description and the appended claims, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings and the foregoing technical field and background.

BRIEF SUMMARY

Various embodiments of a fluid infusion device, along with related fluid reservoirs and sealing elements for fluid reservoirs, are provided here. For example, an embodiment of a sealing element for a fluid infusion device is provided. The sealing element includes a base section, a tip section extending from the base section, a retractable body section between the base section and the tip section, and a needle cavity formed in the retractable body section. The needle cavity continues through the base section to define a needle opening in the base section, and the needle cavity is sized to receive the hollow fluid delivery needle. The sealing element also includes a self-sealing slit formed in the tip section to accommodate the hollow fluid delivery needle when the sealing element is in a retracted position.

Another embodiment of a sealing element for a fluid infusion device is also provided. The sealing element includes a base section, a tip section extending from the base section, a retractable body section between the base section and the tip section, and a needle cavity formed in the retractable body section and continuing through the base section to define a needle opening in the base section. The needle cavity is sized to receive the hollow fluid delivery needle, and the needle cavity defines internal relief features of the retractable body section. The internal relief features cause the sealing element to deform and retract over the hollow fluid delivery needle in response to a longitudinal force applied to the tip section. In addition, the internal relief features cause the sealing element to regain a nominal shape, extend over the hollow fluid delivery needle, and enclose the hollow fluid delivery needle in response to removal of the longitudinal force.

An embodiment of a sealing assembly for a fluid infusion device is also provided. The fluid infusion device cooperates with a fluid reservoir having a fluid delivery port. The sealing assembly includes a base plate, a hollow fluid

3

delivery needle coupled to the base plate to provide a fluid flow path from the fluid reservoir to a user of the fluid infusion device, and a sealing element coupled to the base plate and overlying at least a portion of the hollow fluid delivery needle. The sealing element includes a base section, a tip section extending from the base section, a retractable body section between the base section and the tip section, a needle cavity formed in the retractable body section and continuing through the base section to define a needle opening in the base section, and a self-sealing slit formed in the tip section. The needle cavity is sized to receive the hollow fluid delivery needle, and the self-sealing slit accommodates the hollow fluid delivery needle when the sealing element is in a retracted position.

Another embodiment of a sealing assembly for a fluid infusion device is also provided. The sealing assembly includes a base plate, a hollow fluid delivery needle coupled to the base plate to provide a fluid flow path from the fluid reservoir to a user of the fluid infusion device, and a sealing element coupled to the base plate and overlying at least a portion of the hollow fluid delivery needle. The sealing element includes a base section, a tip section extending from the base section, a retractable body section between the base section and the tip section, and a needle cavity formed in the retractable body section and continuing through the base section to define a needle opening in the base section. The needle cavity is sized to receive the hollow fluid delivery needle, and the needle cavity defines internal relief features of the retractable body section. The internal relief features promote deformation of the sealing element and retraction of the sealing element over the hollow fluid delivery needle in response to a longitudinal force applied to the tip section of the sealing element. Moreover, the internal relief features cause the sealing element to automatically extend over the hollow fluid delivery needle into a nominal state in response to removal of the longitudinal force.

Also presented here is an embodiment of a fluid infusion device to deliver a fluid to a user. The fluid infusion device includes a base plate, a hollow fluid delivery needle coupled to the base plate to provide a fluid flow path from the fluid infusion device to the user, and a sealing element coupled to the base plate and overlying at least a portion of the hollow fluid delivery needle. The sealing element includes a base section, a tip section extending from the base section, a retractable body section between the base section and the tip section, a needle cavity formed in the retractable body section and continuing through the base section to define a needle opening in the base section, the needle cavity sized to receive the hollow fluid delivery needle, and a self-sealing slit formed in the tip section. The fluid infusion device also includes a removable fluid reservoir having a fluid delivery port to receive a tip of the hollow fluid delivery needle. When the removable fluid reservoir is removed from the hollow fluid delivery needle, the retractable body section extends such that the hollow fluid delivery needle is enclosed by the sealing element and such that the self-sealing slit forms a fluid seal to inhibit fluid ingress into the needle cavity. When the removable fluid reservoir is installed on the hollow fluid delivery needle, the tip of the hollow fluid delivery needle extends from the tip section and into the fluid reservoir, and the retractable body section deforms to create a radial seal with an interior of the fluid delivery port.

Another embodiment of a fluid infusion device is also presented here. The fluid infusion device includes a base plate, a hollow fluid delivery needle coupled to the base plate to provide a fluid flow path from the fluid infusion

4

device to the user, and a sealing element coupled to the base plate and overlying at least a portion of the hollow fluid delivery needle. The sealing element includes a base section, a tip section extending from the base section, a retractable body section between the base section and the tip section, and a needle cavity formed in the retractable body section and continuing through the base section to define a needle opening in the base section. The needle cavity is sized to receive the hollow fluid delivery needle, and the needle cavity defines internal relief features of the retractable body section. The fluid infusion device also includes a removable fluid reservoir comprising a fluid delivery port to receive a tip of the hollow fluid delivery needle. The internal relief features promote deformation of the sealing element and retraction of the sealing element over the hollow fluid delivery needle when the removable fluid reservoir is engaged with the sealing element and the hollow fluid delivery needle. The internal relief features also cause the sealing element to automatically extend over the hollow fluid delivery needle, and cause the sealing element to assume a nominal state when the removable fluid reservoir is removed from the sealing element and the hollow fluid delivery needle.

Yet another embodiment of a fluid infusion device is also provided here. The fluid infusion device includes a base plate, a hollow fluid delivery needle coupled to the base plate to provide a fluid flow path for the medication fluid, and a sealing element coupled to the base plate and overlying at least a portion of the hollow fluid delivery needle. The sealing element includes a base section, a tip section extending from the base section, and a retractable body section between the base section and the tip section. The fluid infusion device also includes a fluid reservoir having a fluid chamber, a fluid delivery port coupled to the fluid chamber, and at least one vent hole formed in the fluid delivery port. The at least one vent hole provides a venting conduit from inside the fluid chamber to outside the fluid chamber. The fluid delivery port engages and cooperates with the sealing element and the hollow fluid delivery needle such that the tip section of the sealing element is urged against the fluid delivery port to seal the at least one vent hole.

An alternative embodiment of a fluid reservoir is also presented here. The fluid reservoir includes a main body section that defines a fluid chamber for the medication fluid, a fluid delivery port coupled to and extending from the main body section, the fluid delivery port having a fluid conduit and a pressure vent defined therein, and a septum located in the fluid delivery port and having a nominal non-pierced state forming a fluid seal within the fluid conduit. The pressure vent provides a venting conduit from inside the fluid chamber to outside the fluid chamber, and the pressure vent terminates at an exterior surface of the fluid delivery port. The exterior surface is contoured to mate with a resilient sealing element of the fluid infusion device to seal the pressure vent.

Also disclosed here is an embodiment of a sealing assembly for a fluid infusion device having a hollow fluid delivery needle, a retractable sealing element surrounding the hollow fluid delivery needle, and a fluid reservoir. The sealing assembly includes a fluid delivery port for the fluid reservoir, the fluid delivery port comprising a first sealing surface, a pressure vent formed in the fluid delivery port to provide a venting conduit for a fluid chamber of the fluid reservoir, the pressure vent terminating at the first sealing surface, and a tip section for the retractable sealing element. The tip section has a second sealing surface to mate with the first sealing

5

surface, wherein the first sealing surface and the second sealing surface are urged together to form a fluid seal for the pressure vent when the fluid reservoir is engaged with the hollow fluid delivery needle and the sealing element.

Another alternative embodiment of a fluid reservoir is presented here. The fluid reservoir includes a main body section that defines a fluid chamber for the medication fluid, and a fluid delivery port coupled to and extending from the main body section. The fluid delivery port includes a fluid conduit that communicates with the fluid chamber, and the fluid delivery port terminates at a port opening. The fluid reservoir also includes a septum movably coupled to the fluid delivery port. The septum is movable between a sealed position where the septum forms a circumferential seal around the port opening, and a vented position that permits fluid to flow out of the fluid delivery port via the port opening.

Yet another alternative embodiment of a fluid reservoir is presented here. The fluid reservoir includes a main body section that defines a fluid chamber for the medication fluid, and a fluid delivery port coupled to and extending from the main body section. The fluid delivery port has a fluid conduit that communicates with the fluid chamber, and the fluid delivery port terminates at a port opening. The fluid reservoir also includes a valve sleeve movably coupled to the fluid delivery port, wherein the fluid delivery port and the valve sleeve cooperate to accommodate translational movement of the valve sleeve relative to the fluid delivery port. A septum is located within the valve sleeve and is movable in concert with the valve sleeve between a sealed position and a vented position.

Also provided here is another alternative embodiment of a fluid infusion device that delivers a medication fluid to a body. The fluid infusion device includes a base plate, a hollow fluid delivery needle coupled to the base plate to provide a fluid flow path for the medication fluid, and a fluid reservoir. The fluid reservoir includes a main body section that defines a fluid chamber for the medication fluid, a fluid delivery port coupled to and extending from the main body section, and a septum coupled to the fluid delivery port. The fluid delivery port has a fluid conduit that communicates with the fluid chamber, and the fluid delivery port terminates at a port opening. The septum translates relative to the port opening and is movable between a sealed position and a vented position. In the sealed position, the hollow fluid delivery needle engages the septum and urges the septum against the port opening to form a circumferential seal around the port opening. In the vented position, the hollow fluid delivery needle is disengaged from the septum.

Yet another embodiment of a fluid infusion device is also provided here. The fluid infusion device includes a fluid reservoir having a main body section that defines a fluid chamber for the medication fluid, and also having a fluid delivery port coupled to and extending from the main body section. The fluid delivery port has a fluid conduit that communicates with the fluid chamber, and the fluid delivery port terminates at an unsealed port opening. The fluid infusion device also includes a self-sealing reservoir port receptacle for the fluid delivery port. The port receptacle has an inlet to receive the fluid delivery port, a valve chamber in fluid communication with the inlet, a valve element located in the valve chamber, and an outlet in fluid communication with the valve chamber. The valve element is biased toward the inlet into a sealed position to form a fluid seal between the valve element and the inlet, and the outlet provides a fluid flow path for the medication fluid. Engagement of the fluid delivery port with the inlet causes an end of the fluid

6

delivery port to move the valve element from the sealed position to an opened position to accommodate flow of the medication fluid into the valve chamber.

An alternative embodiment of a sealing assembly for a fluid infusion device is also presented here. The sealing assembly includes a reservoir port receptacle, an inlet formed in the reservoir port receptacle to receive a fluid delivery port of a fluid reservoir that contains the medication fluid, and a valve chamber formed in the reservoir port receptacle and in fluid communication with the inlet, a valve element located in the valve chamber, a resilient compression element located in the valve chamber to bias the valve element toward the inlet, and an outlet formed in the reservoir port receptacle to provide a fluid flow path for the medication fluid.

Another embodiment of a fluid infusion device is also presented here. The fluid infusion device includes a base plate, a delivery conduit coupled to the base plate, wherein the delivery conduit provides the medication fluid to the body, and a self-sealing reservoir port receptacle located on the base plate. The self-sealing reservoir port receptacle includes an inlet to receive a fluid delivery port of a fluid reservoir, a valve chamber in fluid communication with the inlet, a valve element located in the valve chamber, and an outlet between the valve chamber and the delivery conduit. When the fluid delivery port is disengaged from the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle, the valve element is biased toward the inlet into a sealed position to form a fluid seal between the valve element and the inlet. The outlet provides a fluid flow path for the medication fluid. When the fluid delivery port is engaged with the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle, an end of the fluid delivery port moves the valve element from the sealed position to an opened position to accommodate flow of the medication fluid from the fluid reservoir into the valve chamber.

Also presented here is an alternative embodiment of a fluid reservoir for a fluid infusion device that delivers a medication fluid to a body. The fluid reservoir includes a main body section that defines a fluid chamber for the medication fluid, a hollow needle extending from the main body section and defining a fluid conduit that communicates with the fluid chamber, the hollow needle terminating at a needle end, and a needle hood extending from the main body section and at least partially surrounding the hollow needle. The needle hood terminates at a lip that extends further from the main body section than the needle end.

Yet another alternative embodiment of a fluid infusion device is also provided here. The fluid infusion device includes a base plate, a delivery conduit coupled to the base plate, wherein the delivery conduit provides the medication fluid to the body, and a fluid reservoir. The fluid reservoir has a main body section that defines a fluid chamber for the medication fluid, a hollow needle extending from the main body section and in fluid communication with the fluid chamber, and a needle hood extending from the main body section and at least partially surrounding the hollow needle. The fluid infusion device also includes a reservoir port receptacle located on the base plate and comprising mating structure to engage and mate with the needle hood, a sealing element to receive the hollow needle and form a seal around an exterior surface of the hollow needle, and an outlet conduit at least partially defined by the sealing element, wherein the outlet conduit is coupled to the delivery conduit.

Also presented here is another embodiment of a fluid infusion device that delivers a medication fluid to a body. The fluid infusion device includes a fluid reservoir having a main body section that defines a fluid chamber for the

7

medication fluid, and having a hollow needle extending from the main body section and in fluid communication with the fluid chamber. The fluid infusion device also includes a reservoir port receptacle having a sealing element, and having mating structure to engage the fluid reservoir in an aligned orientation for introducing the hollow needle into the sealing element to form a seal around an exterior surface of the hollow needle.

Another sealing assembly for a fluid infusion device is also provided. The device cooperates with a fluid reservoir having a reservoir port and a hollow fluid reservoir needle at least partially located within the reservoir port. The sealing assembly includes a reservoir port receptacle to receive the reservoir port. The receptacle has a proximal end, a distal end extending from the proximal end, and a needle opening formed in the distal end to receive the hollow fluid reservoir needle. The sealing assembly also includes a fluid chamber located at least partially in the reservoir port receptacle, and a needle sealing element having a self-sealing needle opening formed therein. The needle sealing element is located within the reservoir port receptacle between the distal end and the fluid chamber, wherein the self-sealing needle opening accommodates the hollow fluid reservoir needle when the reservoir port engages the reservoir port receptacle.

Yet another sealing assembly for a fluid infusion device is also provided. The device cooperates with a fluid reservoir having a reservoir port and a hollow fluid reservoir needle at least partially located within the reservoir port. The sealing assembly includes a base plate, and a reservoir port receptacle on the base plate to receive the reservoir port. The reservoir port receptacle has a proximal end, a distal end extending from the proximal end, and a needle opening formed in the distal end to receive the hollow fluid reservoir needle. The sealing assembly also has an abutment structure located within the reservoir port receptacle between the distal end and the proximal end, and a needle sealing element having a self-sealing needle opening formed therein. The needle sealing element is located within the reservoir port receptacle between the distal end and the abutment structure, wherein the self-sealing needle opening receives the hollow fluid reservoir needle when the reservoir port engages the reservoir port receptacle. The sealing assembly also includes a fluid conduit having an inlet end and an outlet end in fluid communication with a delivery conduit of the fluid infusion device, wherein the inlet end fluidly communicates with the hollow fluid reservoir needle when the reservoir port engages the reservoir port receptacle.

Also provided is an embodiment of a fluid infusion device that delivers a medication fluid to a user. The fluid infusion device includes a removable fluid reservoir having a reservoir port and a hollow fluid reservoir needle, along with a base plate having a reservoir port receptacle to receive the reservoir port. The reservoir port receptacle has a proximal end, a distal end extending from the proximal end, and a needle opening formed in the distal end to receive the hollow fluid reservoir needle. The fluid infusion device also includes a fluid chamber located at least partially in the reservoir port receptacle, and a needle sealing element having a self-sealing needle opening formed therein. The sealing element is located within the reservoir port receptacle. When the reservoir port is mated with the reservoir port receptacle, at least a portion of the hollow fluid reservoir needle resides within the self-sealing needle opening, and the self-sealing needle opening forms a seal around an exterior surface of the hollow fluid reservoir needle. In

8

contrast, when the reservoir port is disengaged from the reservoir port receptacle, the needle sealing element returns to a nominal state to inhibit fluid flow through the self-sealing needle opening.

This summary is provided to introduce a selection of concepts in a simplified form that are further described below in the detailed description. This summary is not intended to identify key features or essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended to be used as an aid in determining the scope of the claimed subject matter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A more complete understanding of the subject matter may be derived by referring to the detailed description and claims when considered in conjunction with the following figures, wherein like reference numbers refer to similar elements throughout the figures.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of a fluid infusion device;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view that depicts internal structure of the durable housing of the fluid infusion device shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view that depicts internal structure of the base plate of the fluid infusion device shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view that depicts the reservoir port receptacle and a sealing element of the fluid infusion device shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view of a portion of the fluid infusion device, corresponding to a view along line 5-5 in FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 is an exploded perspective view of a sealing assembly suitable for use with the fluid infusion device shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 7 is a plan view of the sealing element shown in FIG. 6, as viewed from its base end;

FIG. 8 is a side elevation view of the sealing element shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 9 is a front elevation view of the sealing element shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of the sealing element shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 11 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view of the sealing element shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 12 is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view of a portion of the fluid infusion device, in a state where the fluid reservoir is fully engaged with the sealing element;

FIG. 13 is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of a sealing element;

FIG. 14 is a phantom side view that depicts a portion of an alternative embodiment of a sealing element;

FIG. 15 is a phantom perspective view that depicts a portion of an alternative embodiment of a sealing element;

FIG. 16 is a phantom side view that depicts a portion of an alternative embodiment of a sealing element;

FIG. 17 is a schematic side view of an embodiment of a vented fluid reservoir;

FIG. 18 is a top view of an embodiment of a vented fluid reservoir;

FIG. 19 is a phantom side view of an embodiment of a fluid reservoir that includes a septum that serves as a pressure relief valve;

FIG. 20 is a phantom side view of the fluid reservoir shown in FIG. 19 in a sealed state;

9

FIG. 21 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view of a fluid reservoir and a self-sealing reservoir port receptacle suitable for use with a fluid infusion device;

FIG. 22 is an end view of the fluid reservoir as viewed from the perspective of line 22-22 in FIG. 21;

FIG. 23 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of a fluid reservoir that includes a needle;

FIG. 24 is a cross-sectional view of a portion of the fluid reservoir, as viewed from the perspective of line 24-24 in FIG. 23;

FIG. 25 is a perspective view of a section of a fluid infusion device, including a reservoir port receptacle suitable for engagement with the fluid reservoir shown in FIG. 23;

FIG. 26 is a perspective view of a sealing and conduit component suitable for use with the fluid infusion device shown in FIG. 25;

FIG. 27 is a cross-sectional view of the section of the fluid infusion device, as viewed from the perspective of line 27-27 in FIG. 25;

FIG. 28 is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view that illustrates the fluid reservoir (shown in FIG. 23) before engagement with the section of the fluid infusion device (shown in FIG. 25);

FIG. 29 is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view that illustrates the fluid reservoir (shown in FIG. 23) after engagement with the section of the fluid infusion device (shown in FIG. 25);

FIG. 30 is a cross-sectional view of a portion of a second embodiment of a needled fluid reservoir;

FIG. 31 is a cross-sectional view of a section of a fluid infusion device that is designed to accommodate the needled fluid reservoir shown in FIG. 30;

FIG. 32 is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view that illustrates the fluid reservoir (shown in FIG. 30) before engagement with the section of the fluid infusion device (shown in FIG. 31);

FIG. 33 is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view that illustrates the fluid reservoir (shown in FIG. 30) after engagement with the section of the fluid infusion device (shown in FIG. 31);

FIG. 34 is a perspective view of a third embodiment of a needled fluid reservoir;

FIG. 35 is a cross-sectional view of a portion of the fluid reservoir, as viewed from the perspective of line 35-35 in FIG. 34;

FIG. 36 is a perspective view of a section of a fluid infusion device, including a reservoir port receptacle suitable for engagement with the fluid reservoir shown in FIG. 34;

FIG. 37 is a cross-sectional view of the section of the fluid infusion device, as viewed from the perspective of line 37-37 in FIG. 36;

FIG. 38 is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view that illustrates the fluid reservoir (shown in FIG. 34) before engagement with the section of the fluid infusion device (shown in FIG. 36);

FIG. 39 is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view that illustrates the fluid reservoir (shown in FIG. 34) after engagement with the section of the fluid infusion device (shown in FIG. 36);

FIG. 40 is a cross-sectional view of a portion of a fluid infusion device, showing a sealing structure prior to engagement with a fluid reservoir needle;

FIG. 41 is a cross-sectional view of the portion of the fluid infusion device shown in FIG. 40, showing the sealing structure after engagement with the fluid reservoir needle;

10

FIG. 42 is a cross-sectional view of a portion of a base plate utilized by the fluid infusion device shown in FIG. 40;

FIG. 43 is a perspective view of a cap component utilized by the fluid infusion device shown in FIG. 40;

FIG. 44 is a perspective view of a needle sealing element utilized by the fluid infusion device shown in FIG. 40; and

FIG. 45 is an end view of the needle sealing element shown in FIG. 44.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following detailed description is merely illustrative in nature and is not intended to limit the embodiments of the subject matter or the application and uses of such embodiments. As used herein, the word “exemplary” means “serving as an example, instance, or illustration.” Any implementation described herein as exemplary is not necessarily to be construed as preferred or advantageous over other implementations. Furthermore, there is no intention to be bound by any expressed or implied theory presented in the preceding technical field, background, brief summary or the following detailed description.

Certain terminology may be used in the following description for the purpose of reference only, and thus are not intended to be limiting. For example, terms such as “upper”, “lower”, “above”, and “below” could be used to refer to directions in the drawings to which reference is made. Terms such as “front”, “back”, “rear”, “side”, “outboard”, and “inboard” could be used to describe the orientation and/or location of portions of the component within a consistent but arbitrary frame of reference which is made clear by reference to the text and the associated drawings describing the component under discussion. Such terminology may include the words specifically mentioned above, derivatives thereof, and words of similar import. Similarly, the terms “first”, “second”, and other such numerical terms referring to structures do not imply a sequence or order unless clearly indicated by the context.

Various embodiments presented here are related to a sealing element suitable for use with a fluid reservoir and a fluid delivery needle of the type found in fluid infusion systems. In certain embodiments, the sealing element includes at least one slit formed in its tip to accommodate a hollow needle. When a fluid reservoir is introduced and coupled to the needle, the port of the fluid reservoir and/or another structural feature of the reservoir urges the sealing element to retract over the needle such that the end of the needle penetrates the slit, protrudes from the tip of the sealing element, and enters the fluid reservoir. Upon fluid connection in this manner, the needle penetrates the tip of the sealing element, which in turn outwardly expands the material (e.g., silicone) of the sealing element near the tip. The reservoir port that receives the sealing element is sized and configured such that expansion of the sealing element forms a radial seal between the inner surface of the reservoir port and the sealing element. Further and complete installation of the reservoir onto the needle also creates a secondary backup face seal between the opening of the reservoir port and the sealing element.

Additional embodiments of various fluid reservoir configurations, needle sealing arrangements, and fluid interface designs are also presented here. For example, a number of vented fluid reservoir embodiments are described below, where a pressure vent is incorporated into the fluid reservoir to facilitate the equalization of pressure that may otherwise be present inside of the fluid reservoir and, therefore, to

11

reduce the likelihood of accidental fluid delivery caused by the build-up of internal pressure.

In addition, a “needleless” embodiment is presented here. In lieu of a fluid delivery needle, a fluid reservoir is suitably configured to interact with a sealing component or feature of a base plate of the fluid infusion device. The sealing component includes a valve member (e.g., a ball valve) that opens to accommodate fluid delivery from the fluid reservoir when the reservoir is introduced to the base plate. When the reservoir is removed, the valve member automatically seals the flow path.

Various embodiments of a fluid reservoir having a “hooded” or shielded needle or needle-like structure are also provided. The reservoir needle is designed to deliver the medication fluid to a corresponding fluid receptacle of the fluid infusion device. The fluid receptacle includes a sealing element that receives the reservoir needle and creates a fluid seal with the reservoir.

The following description relates to a fluid infusion device of the type used to treat a medical condition of a patient. The infusion device is used for infusing fluid into the body of a user. The non-limiting examples described below relate to a medical device used to treat diabetes (more specifically, an insulin pump), although embodiments of the disclosed subject matter are not so limited. Accordingly, the infused medication fluid is insulin in certain embodiments. In alternative embodiments, however, many other fluids may be administered through infusion such as, but not limited to, disease treatments, drugs to treat pulmonary hypertension, iron chelation drugs, pain medications, anti-cancer treatments, medications, vitamins, hormones, or the like. For the sake of brevity, conventional features and characteristics related to infusion system operation, insulin pump and/or infusion set operation, fluid reservoirs, and fluid syringes may not be described in detail here. Examples of infusion pumps and/or related pump drive systems used to administer insulin and other medications may be of the type described in, but not limited to: United States patent application number 2009/0299290 A1; United States patent application number 2008/0269687; U.S. Pat. No. 7,828,764; and U.S. Pat. No. 7,905,868 (the entire content of these patent documents is incorporated by reference herein).

Retractable Needle Sealing Element

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an exemplary embodiment of a fluid infusion device 100. The fluid infusion device 100 includes two primary components that are removably coupled to each other: a durable housing 102; and a base plate 104. The fluid infusion device 100 also includes or cooperates with a removable/replaceable fluid reservoir 106. For the illustrated embodiment, the fluid reservoir 106 mates with, and is received by, the durable housing 102. In alternate embodiments, the fluid reservoir 106 mates with, and is received by, the base plate 104. FIG. 2 is a perspective view that depicts internal structure of the durable housing 102, FIG. 3 is a perspective view that depicts internal structure of the base plate 104, and FIG. 4 is a perspective view that depicts a reservoir port receptacle 108 and a sealing element 110 of the fluid infusion device 100.

The base plate 104 is designed to be temporarily adhered to the skin of the patient using, for example, an adhesive layer of material. After the base plate is affixed to the skin of the patient, a suitably configured insertion device or apparatus may be used to insert a fluid delivery needle or cannula 112 (see FIG. 1) into the body of the patient. The cannula 112 functions as one part of the fluid delivery path associated with the fluid infusion device 100, as is well understood.

12

FIG. 1 depicts the durable housing 102 and the base plate 104 coupled together. In practice, the durable housing 102 and/or the base plate 104 may include features, structures, or elements to facilitate removable coupling (e.g., pawls, latches, rails, slots, keyways, buttons, or the like). As shown in FIG. 2, the durable housing 102 is designed to receive the removable fluid reservoir 106 and to retain the fluid reservoir 106 in a particular position and orientation. Moreover, the durable housing 102 is configured to secure to the base plate 104 in a specified orientation to engage the fluid reservoir 106 with the reservoir port receptacle 108 (see FIG. 3). For this particular embodiment, the durable housing 102 contains, among other components, a drive motor, a battery, a threaded drive shaft for the fluid reservoir, one or more integrated circuit chips and/or other electronic devices (not shown). In particular embodiments, the fluid infusion device 100 includes certain features to orient, align, and position the durable housing 102 relative to the base plate 104 such that when the two components are coupled together the fluid reservoir 106 is urged into the reservoir port receptacle 108 to engage the sealing assembly and establish a fluid seal, as described in more detail below.

The durable housing 102 and the base plate 104 are cooperatively configured to accommodate removable coupling of the durable housing 102 to the base plate 104. The removable nature of the durable housing 102 enables the patient to replace the fluid reservoir 106 as needed. Moreover, the durable housing 102 can be removed (while leaving the base plate 104 adhered to the patient) to allow the patient to swim, shower, bathe, and participate in other activities that might otherwise damage or contaminate the durable housing 102. When the durable housing 102 is removed from the base plate 104, the fluid reservoir 106 is disengaged from the reservoir port receptacle 108, the fluid flow path is broken, and the base plate 104 will appear as shown in FIG. 4.

The fluid reservoir 106 includes a fluid delivery port 114 that cooperates with the reservoir port receptacle 108. FIG. 3 depicts the fully installed position of the fluid reservoir 106 relative to the base plate 104 and the reservoir port receptacle 108 (for ease of illustration, the durable housing 102 is not shown in FIG. 3). The fluid delivery port 114 may include a pierceable septum if the fluid reservoir 106 is a prefilled unit. Alternatively, the fluid delivery port 114 may include a vented opening to accommodate filling of the fluid reservoir 106 by the patient, a doctor, a caregiver, or the like. The fluid delivery port 114 has an interior 116 defined therein. As shown in FIG. 5, the interior 116 is shaped, sized, and otherwise configured to receive the sealing element 110 when the fluid reservoir 106 is engaged with the reservoir port receptacle 108. In certain embodiments, the interior 116 is conical, tapered, and/or funnel-shaped, as best shown in FIG. 5. This preferred shape of the interior 116 makes it easy for the sealing element 110 to mate with the fluid delivery port 114 when the durable housing 102 is coupled to the base plate 104.

The sealing element 110 forms part of a sealing assembly 130 for the fluid infusion device 100. The sealing assembly 130 as referred to here may also include the base plate 104 (or a portion thereof) and/or other structure or elements that cooperate with the sealing element 110. These additional components will be described with reference to FIG. 5, which is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view of a portion of the fluid infusion device 100 (corresponding to the view taken from line 5-5 in FIG. 4) and with reference to FIG. 6, which is an exploded perspective view of the sealing assembly 130. The illustrated embodiment of the

13

sealing assembly **130** generally includes, without limitation: the sealing element **110**; a mounting cap **132**; and a hollow fluid delivery needle **134**. It should be appreciated that a portion of the base plate **104** (e.g., the reservoir port receptacle **108** and/or the end portion of the base plate **104** that receives the sealing element **110** and the mounting cap **132**) may be considered to be part of the sealing assembly **130**.

The sealing assembly **130** may be formed by coupling the sealing element **110** and the hollow fluid delivery needle **134** to the mounting cap **132**. In turn, the mounting cap **132** may be secured to the base plate **104** (see FIG. 1 and FIG. 3). The sealing element **110** and the hollow fluid delivery needle **134** may be secured to the mounting cap **132** using an adhesive, a bonding or welding agent, by a compression or snap fitting arrangement, or the like. The bottom surface **136** of the sealing element **110** (see FIG. 6) forms a fluid seal with a mating surface of the mounting cap **132**. In certain embodiments, the mounting cap **132** includes a hollow protrusion **138** (which may be conical in shape) that extends into, and forms a fluid seal with, the base section of the sealing element **110**, as shown in FIG. 5. A portion of the hollow fluid delivery needle **134** extends through the hollow protrusion **138** and into the sealing element **110**. As shown in FIG. 6, the hollow fluid delivery needle **134** for this particular embodiment is “J” shaped to provide a fluid flow path from the sealing element **110**, across the length of the mounting cap **132**, and into an outlet port **140** of the mounting cap **132**. The outlet port **140** leads to a second sealing element **142** (which may be integrally formed with the sealing element **110**, as shown), which in turn leads into a fluid chamber **144** defined in the base plate **104**. The fluid chamber **144** is fluidly coupled to the cannula **112** (FIG. 1) such that when a plunger of the fluid reservoir **106** is actuated, the fluid is expelled from the fluid reservoir **106**, through the hollow fluid delivery needle **134**, into the fluid chamber **144**, and into the body of the patient via the cannula **112**.

FIGS. 7-10 show the sealing element **110** and the second sealing element **142** in more detail, and FIG. 11 shows the sealing element **110** by itself in cross-section. The sealing element **110** and the second sealing element **142** may be integrally formed as a one-piece component from a resilient and deformable material, such as rubber, urethane, or the like. In certain embodiments, the sealing element **110** and the second sealing element **142** are formed from a pliable silicone material. The material used for the sealing element and the second sealing element **142** is selected to be resistant to the fluid being delivered, biocompatible, and capable of being sterilized after manufacturing. The following description focuses on the configuration, characteristics, and functionality of the sealing element **110** (the figures include the second sealing element **142** for the sake of completeness and for consistency with the exemplary embodiment).

The sealing element **110** includes a base section **150**, a tip section **152** extending from the base section **150**, and a retractable body section **154** between the base section **150** and the tip section **152**. In practice, the sealing element **110** is a one-piece component and, accordingly, the base section **150**, the tip section **152**, and the retractable body section **154** are integrally formed and continuous with one another. Referring to FIG. 11, the sealing element **110** includes a needle cavity **155** formed therein. More specifically, the needle cavity **155** is formed within the retractable body section **154**, and it continues through the base section **150** to define a needle opening **156** in the base section **150**. The exemplary embodiment depicted in the figures includes a tapered or conical shaped needle opening **156** that mates

14

with the outer contour of the hollow protrusion **138** (see FIG. 5), which in turn accommodates the hollow fluid delivery needle **134**. As shown in FIG. 5, the needle cavity **155** is shaped, sized, and configured to receive the hollow fluid delivery needle **134**.

The base section **150** generally corresponds to the portion of the sealing element **110** that is coupled to the base plate **104** (by way of the mounting cap **132**). Notably, the mounting cap **132** and the hollow fluid delivery needle **134** are coupled to the base plate **104** in a substantially fixed and rigid manner such that the hollow fluid delivery needle **134** protrudes from the mounting cap **132** and extends within the reservoir port receptacle **108** (see FIG. 4). The sealing element **110**, however, is a pliable and deformable feature. FIG. 4 depicts the sealing element **110** in its natural nominal state without the fluid reservoir **106** in place. In this nominal state, the tip section **152** of the sealing element **110** extends slightly beyond the lip of the reservoir port receptacle **108**. The sealing element **110** is configured to retract over the hollow fluid delivery needle **134** when the fluid reservoir **106** engages the base plate **104** (in FIG. 3 the fluid reservoir **106** is fully engaged with the reservoir port receptacle **108**).

The tip section **152** may be mushroom or barb shaped in various embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 8-11. The barbed shape of the tip section **152** promotes entry and seating of the sealing element **110** into the fluid delivery port **114** of the fluid reservoir **106**. Moreover, the barbed shape configuration helps to establish a good radial seal between the sealing element **110** and the interior **116** of the fluid delivery port **114** (described in more detail below).

Referring to FIG. 5 and FIG. 11, the sealing element **110** may also include at least one self-sealing slit **160**, slot, opening, or hole formed in the tip section **152** to accommodate the hollow fluid delivery needle **134** when the sealing element is in a retracted position. The self-sealing slit **160** may be realized as a very fine slice or puncture formed in the tip section **152** for purposes of guiding the end of the hollow fluid delivery needle **134** through the material of the sealing element **110** as needed. The self-sealing slit **160** is preferred over an embodiment that relies on repeated punctures of the tip section **152** with a sharp or pointed needle. For this particular embodiment, a flat or blunt ended hollow fluid delivery needle **134** can be utilized because the self-sealing slit **160** provides a pre-existing pathway through the tip section **152**.

The self-sealing slit **160** expands to accommodate passage of the hollow fluid delivery needle **134**, and it automatically returns to a “closed” and sealed state when the fluid reservoir **106** is removed from the base plate **104**. The sealed state is depicted in FIG. 5—the hollow fluid delivery needle **134** is fully enclosed within the sealing element **110** and the end of the hollow fluid delivery needle **134** is positioned behind the self-sealing slit **160**. More specifically, the sealing element **110** is overlying the protruding portion of the hollow fluid delivery needle **134**, which is located within the retractable body section **154**. In this state, the self-sealing slit **160** closes to inhibit fluid ingress into the needle cavity **155** and to protect the hollow fluid delivery needle **134** from contamination.

The illustrated embodiment of the sealing element **110** also includes an integral guide channel **162** formed in the tip section **152**. The guide channel **162** is in communication with the needle cavity **155** and the self-sealing slit **160**, as best shown in FIG. 11. The guide channel **162** may be realized as an opening or neck region having a smaller dimension (e.g., diameter) than the end of the needle cavity **155**, but a larger dimension than the self-sealing slit **160**.

15

This arrangement and configuration enables the guide channel 162 to guide/lead the tip of the hollow fluid delivery needle 134 into the self-sealing slit 160 during retraction of the sealing element 110 over the hollow fluid delivery needle 134. In practice, the guide channel 162 increases the likelihood of the hollow fluid delivery needle 134 entering the self-sealing slit 160 rather than “catching” and puncturing the material forming the tip section 152.

Referring to FIG. 11, the needle cavity 155 is suitably configured such that it defines internal relief features 164 and/or an internal relief structure of the retractable body section 154. In operation, the internal relief features 164 facilitate retraction of the sealing element 110 over the hollow fluid delivery needle 134 in response to a longitudinal force applied to the tip section 152. Longitudinal force of this type may be imparted to the tip section 152 when the durable housing 102 is coupled to the base plate 104 and, consequently, when the fluid delivery port 114 of the fluid reservoir 106 engages the reservoir port receptacle 108 of the base plate 104 (see FIG. 3). The internal relief features 164 also cause the sealing element 110 to be self-biasing or spring-like such that the sealing element 110 extends over and covers the hollow fluid delivery needle 134 in response to the removal of the longitudinal force. This extended position is depicted in FIGS. 5-11.

The internal relief features 164 allow the sealing element 110 to compress and deform easily when the fluid reservoir 106 is introduced. Moreover, the internal relief features 164 function as a spring when under compression. In this regard, the internal relief features 164 urge the tip section 152 outward and beyond the end of the hollow fluid delivery needle 134 when the fluid reservoir 106 is withdrawn. The specific configuration of the internal relief features 164 may vary from one embodiment to another, and the exemplary arrangement depicted in FIG. 11 is not intended to be exhaustive or otherwise limiting. As shown in FIG. 11, the internal relief features 164 may include or be arranged as an accordion structure within the needle cavity 155. Alternatively (or additionally), the internal relief features 164 may include one or a plurality of internal annular channels formed within the needle cavity 155. Alternatively (or additionally), the internal relief features 164 may include one or a plurality of internal annular ridges or ribs within the needle cavity 155. Alternatively (or additionally), the internal relief features 164 may include one or a plurality of bottleneck structures resident within the needle cavity 155. The embodiment shown in FIG. 11 includes a number of annular channels alternating with a plurality of annular ridges. This arrangement of channels and ridges results in a plurality of bottleneck regions, which in turn form the spring-like accordion structure.

The mechanical characteristics, sealing characteristics, and functional aspects of the sealing element 110 will now be described with primary reference to FIGS. 4, 5, 11, and 12. The fluid infusion device 100 and, more specifically, the sealing element 110 may be manipulated into various states associated with the coupling status of the fluid reservoir 106 relative to the sealing assembly 130 (FIG. 6), the sealing element 110, the reservoir port receptacle 108, etc. The different states may also be specified with respect to the coupling status of the durable housing 102 relative to the base plate 104. In this regard, one state may be defined as the “separated” or “disconnected” or “disengaged” state where the durable housing 102 and the base plate 104 are separated from each other (or are otherwise decoupled) such that the fluid delivery port 114 is fully disengaged from the sealing element 110. FIG. 4 depicts the base plate 104 in its

16

disconnected state. Another state may be defined as the “connected” or “engaged” state where the durable housing 102 and the base plate 104 are fully coupled together, as depicted in FIG. 1. This description assumes that the fluid reservoir 106 is properly located and installed within the durable housing 102 (see FIG. 2). Consequently, when the fluid infusion device 100 is in the connected state, the fluid delivery port 114 is received within the reservoir port receptacle 108, and the interior 116 of the fluid delivery port 114 engages the sealing element 110. FIG. 12 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view that schematically depicts the connected state of the fluid infusion device 100. In contrast, FIG. 5 shows the fluid infusion device 100 in an intermediate state where the durable housing 102 and the base plate 104 have been introduced to one another and oriented for coupling together. In this intermediate state, the fluid delivery port 114 has partially engaged the reservoir port receptacle 108, but the sealing element 110 has not yet been retracted over the hollow fluid delivery needle 134.

The sealing element 110 has a nominal state, which is depicted in FIGS. 4-11, and a retracted state, which is depicted in FIG. 12. The sealing element 110 naturally assumes its nominal state when the fluid infusion device 100 is in the disconnected state, and when the fluid infusion device 100 is in the intermediate state described above. When in the nominal state, the tip of the hollow fluid delivery needle 134 resides within the needle cavity 155 (see FIG. 5). In other words, the sealing element 110 encloses the hollow fluid delivery needle 134 when the sealing element 110 is in the nominal state. Consequently, the self-sealing slit 160 is free to return to its natural position to form a fluid seal for the needle cavity 155. Thus, when the sealing element 110 is in the nominal state, the self-sealing slit 160 inhibits fluid ingress into the needle cavity, which is desirable to prevent or minimize contamination of the hollow fluid delivery needle 134.

In contrast, the sealing element 110 is urged into its retracted state when the fluid infusion device 100 is in the connected state. The transition from the intermediate state to the connected state is associated with the application of longitudinal force (imparted by the fluid delivery port 114) to the tip section 152 of the sealing element 110. The longitudinal force is imparted to the tip section 152 when the durable housing 102 is coupled to the base plate 104—the action of coupling the durable housing 102 to the base plate 104 causes the fluid delivery port 114 to move toward the mounting cap 132, which in turn reduces the distance between the interior 116 of the fluid delivery port 114 and the mounting cap 132. In response to this reduction in distance, the sealing element 110 is deformed and crushed such that it retracts over the hollow fluid delivery needle 134. Notably, the internal relief features 164 promote the deformation and retraction of the sealing element 110 over the hollow fluid delivery needle 134 in response to force applied to the tip section 152, which is caused by forward movement of the fluid reservoir 106. Retraction of the sealing element 110 causes the tip 172 of the hollow fluid delivery needle 134 to be led through the guide channel 162 and into the self-sealing slit 160, such that the tip 172 protrudes from the tip section 152 (see FIG. 12) and such that an end section 173 of the hollow fluid delivery needle 134 resides in the self-sealing slit 160. Thus, when the removable fluid reservoir 106 is installed on the hollow fluid delivery needle 134, the tip 172 extends from the tip section 152 of the sealing element 110 and into the fluid reservoir 106.

17

The sealing element **110** interacts with the fluid delivery port **114** to establish a fluid seal. Referring to FIG. **11** and FIG. **12**, the retractable body section **154** of the sealing element **110** has an exterior surface **174**. When the sealing element **110** is in its nominal state (FIGS. **4-11**), the exterior surface **174** is “relaxed” and it resembles a smooth cylindrical surface. Due to the deformable characteristics of the sealing element **110**, however, the exterior surface **174** moves outward when the sealing element **110** is retracting over the hollow fluid delivery needle **134**, especially when the hollow fluid delivery needle **134** protrudes from the tip section **152** and displaces the seal material. This outward movement of the exterior surface **174** corresponds to an outward expansion of the retractable body section **154**. The retractable body section **154** continues to expand in this manner until it abuts the interior **116** of the fluid delivery port **114**, as depicted in FIG. **12**. Thus, as the tip section **152** engages the fluid delivery port **114**, the sealing element **110** creates an initial seal with the fluid delivery port **114**. In addition, the retractable body section **154** expands to form a radial seal with the interior **116** when the fluid reservoir **106** engages the sealing element **110** and the hollow fluid delivery needle **134**. The tip section **152** of the sealing element **110** also abuts the interior **116** of the fluid delivery port **114**, which enhances the fluid seal.

The internal relief features **164** facilitate compression of the sealing element **110** into the retracted state shown in FIG. **12**. The internal relief features **164** also provide resiliency to enable the sealing element **110** to regain its nominal shape when the durable housing **102** is removed and, consequently, the fluid delivery port **114** is disengaged from the sealing element **110** and the hollow fluid delivery needle **134**. In other words, the sealing element **110** automatically and naturally springs back into its nominal position, and extends over and covers the hollow fluid delivery needle **134**, when the fluid infusion device **100** transitions from the connected state to the disconnected state. For this reason, the internal relief features **164** are preferably designed, arranged, and configured to provide spring-like characteristics to the sealing element **110**.

FIGS. **13-16** depict sealing elements configured in accordance with three alternate embodiments. Any of these alternative embodiments could be utilized in lieu of the sealing element **110** described above. These alternate embodiments share many features, characteristics, and functions with the sealing element **110**. For the sake of brevity, common aspects of these sealing elements will not be described in detail here.

FIG. **13** is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of a sealing element **200**, which may be suitable for use in lieu of the sealing element **110**. The sealing element **200** shares many features and characteristics with the sealing element **110** and, indeed, the internal structures of the sealing elements **110**, **200** may be similar or identical. For example, the sealing element **200** also includes a self-sealing slit **201** to accommodate a needle. The sealing element **200** employs a gradually tapered retractable body section **202** that transitions smoothly and continuously with a tip section **204**. In contrast, the sealing element **110** employs a barbed tip section **152**.

FIG. **14** is a phantom side view that depicts a portion of an alternate embodiment of a sealing element **300**. The sealing element **300** includes a relatively straight and smooth cylindrical retractable body section **302** that transitions to a tip section **304**. In contrast to the embodiments described previously, the sealing element **300** also includes a circumferential compression element **306** coupled around

18

the tip section **304**. The circumferential compression element **306** is suitably designed, shaped, and sized to impart an inward biasing force to a self-sealing slit **308** formed in the tip section **304**. Consequently, when the sealing element **300** is in its natural and nominal state (as depicted in FIG. **14**), the circumferential compression element **306** urges the self-sealing slit **308** closed to enhance the seal for the needle cavity **310**.

In certain embodiments, the circumferential compression element **306** is realized as a physically distinct and separate component that is attached to the material that forms the bulk of the sealing element **300**. For example, the circumferential compression element **306** could be affixed to the tip section **304** using an adhesive, a bonding agent, or the like. Alternatively, the circumferential compression element **306** could be coupled to the tip section **304** by way of a compression fit and/or by way of structural features that secure the circumferential compression element **306** to the tip section **304** (e.g., keyway features, tabs, ridges, or the like). In accordance with one exemplary embodiment, the circumferential compression element **306** is realized as a resilient band that resists deformation more than the material that forms the tip section **304**.

FIG. **15** is a phantom perspective view that depicts a portion of another alternate embodiment of a sealing element **400**. The sealing element **400** is similar to the sealing element **300** in that it also includes a circumferential compression element **406**. For this embodiment, however, the circumferential compression element **406** is realized as a rigid ring that encircles most if not all of the tip section **404**. In accordance with one exemplary embodiment, the circumferential compression element **406** is realized as a metal compression ring that can be installed over the tip section **404** by bending or deforming it to achieve the desired amount of compression.

FIG. **16** is a phantom side view that depicts a portion of yet another alternate embodiment of a sealing element **500**. The sealing element **500** includes a tip section **504** having a different shape and profile (relative to the embodiments described previously). The shape of the tip section **504** is similar to the shape of the tip section **152** in that it is wider than the retractable body section **502**. This wide tip section **504** is desirable to establish a good fluid seal with the fluid reservoir. Moreover, the additional material that is used to form the wide tip section **504** serves to enhance the integrity of the self-sealing slit **508**.

It should be appreciated that the specific features and characteristics shown and described above for the various exemplary embodiments are neither exclusive nor required for any given embodiment. For example, any of the exemplary sealing elements described above could be provided with or without a circumferential compression element for the tip section. As another example, the specific shape and configuration of the tip section may vary from one embodiment to another. Thus, the individual features and elements shown and described may be implemented and deployed in an embodiment of a fluid infusion device as desired to suit the needs of the particular application.

Vented Fluid Reservoirs

An open or vented fluid reservoir may be utilized to reduce or eliminate excess pressure that might otherwise be introduced into the fluid chamber of the reservoir during a filling operation. In this regard, a vented fluid reservoir allows the pressure to equalize before the reservoir is coupled to the fluid infusion device and, therefore, reduces or eliminates the likelihood of unintended fluid delivery. To this end, one embodiment described here includes a vented

19

port or funnel to relieve the pressure in the reservoir. Another embodiment described below employs a movable septum that functions as a pressure relief valve for the fluid reservoir.

FIG. 17 depicts a schematic side view representation of a vented fluid reservoir 600, and FIG. 18 is a top view of an exemplary embodiment of the vented fluid reservoir 600. For ease of understanding and illustration, FIG. 17 depicts some structure in cross section and some structure in phantom. The fluid reservoir 600 may be utilized with the fluid infusion device 100 (or a slightly modified version thereof) described above with reference to FIGS. 1-6. Accordingly, common features, structures, elements, and functionality will not be redundantly described here in the context of the fluid reservoir 600.

Referring to FIG. 17, the fluid reservoir 600 may cooperate with a fluid infusion device (not shown) having a hollow fluid delivery needle 602 and a sealing element 604 overlying at least a portion of the hollow fluid delivery needle 602. The sealing element 604 may exhibit any of the features, structures, or elements described above, as appropriate for the particular embodiment. As described above for the previous embodiments, the sealing element 604 may terminate at a tip section 606 through which a tip 608 of the hollow fluid delivery needle penetrates when the fluid reservoir 600 is engaged with the hollow fluid delivery needle 602 and with the sealing element 604 (see, for example, FIG. 12). For this particular embodiment, the tip section 606 is barbed or mushroom shaped such that it has a tapered convex exterior surface 610.

The fluid reservoir 600 generally includes, without limitation: a main body section 620; a filling port 621; a fluid delivery port 622; a funnel element 623; and a septum 624. The main body section defines a fluid chamber 626 for the medication fluid that is to be delivered by the fluid infusion device. The filling port 621 is in fluid communication with the fluid chamber 626 to accommodate filling of the fluid chamber 626 with the desired medication fluid (using a syringe or fill needle, as is well understood). The fluid delivery port 622 is coupled to, and extends from, the main body section 620. The fluid delivery port 622 is in fluid communication with the fluid chamber 626 to provide a fluid flow path from inside the fluid chamber 626 to the hollow fluid delivery needle 602 (this fluid flow path is established and maintained when the fluid reservoir 600 is engaged with the base plate of the fluid infusion device).

The funnel element 623 is coupled within the fluid delivery port 622. In certain embodiments, the main body section 620 and the fluid delivery port 622 are formed from a first material (such as plastic) and the funnel element 623 is formed from a second material (such as metal). The funnel element 623 may be implemented as an insert that can be seated within and coupled to the fluid delivery port 622 in any suitable manner such that the funnel element 623 remains in a fixed position. Notably, the funnel element 623 includes a tapered, conical, or convex interior surface 628. This interior surface 628 represents one surface of the receptacle that is defined by the funnel element 623. As schematically illustrated in FIG. 17, the funnel element 623 is shaped, sized, and configured in accordance with the sealing element 604. This enables the interior surface 628 of the funnel element 623 and the exterior surface 610 of the sealing element 604 to mate with one another and cooperate to form a fluid tight seal when they are forced together.

The septum 624 is located and held in place in the funnel element 623. The septum 624 may be formed from a soft, resilient, and pliable material that has certain self-sealing or

20

self-restoring properties. For example, the septum 624 may be formed from a silicone rubber material in certain embodiments. Depending upon the embodiment, the septum 624 may be provided in a solid and continuous form, or it may be provided with a slit, a cut, or an equivalent feature that makes it easier to pierce while still maintaining at least a nominal seal. The septum 624 has a nominal non-pierced state (depicted in FIG. 17) where the needle does not protrude through the septum 624. In the non-pierced state, the septum 624 forms a fluid seal within a fluid conduit 630 defined by the fluid reservoir 600. Thus, the medication fluid inside the fluid chamber 626 cannot flow within the fluid conduit 630 when the fluid reservoir 600 is in the disengaged state shown in FIG. 17. However, when the fluid reservoir 600 is properly engaged with the hollow fluid delivery needle 602 and with the sealing element 604, the tip 608 of the hollow fluid delivery needle 602 penetrates the septum 624 to create a fluid flow path from the fluid chamber 626 through the septum 624. Accordingly, the hollow fluid delivery needle 602 pierces the septum 624 to facilitate delivery of the medication fluid from the fluid chamber to the hollow fluid delivery needle 602.

In various embodiments, the fluid delivery port 622 and/or the funnel element 623 include a pressure vent formed therein. The pressure vent may take any suitable form or arrangement. For example, the pressure vent may be realized with one or more vent holes. As another example, the pressure vent may be realized with one or more slits or any other opening formed within the funnel element 623. The exemplary embodiments shown in FIG. 17 and FIG. 18 employ small diameter vent holes 640 formed in the funnel element 623. As shown in FIG. 18, the vent holes 640 may be arranged around the perimeter of the fluid delivery port and/or around the perimeter of the funnel element 623. As depicted in FIG. 17, the vent holes 640 may be located around the outer perimeter of the septum 624. Thus, the vent holes 640 create venting conduits that pass around the septum 624 and pass around the fluid conduit 630. In practice, the vent holes 640 are sized to minimize leakage of the medication fluid caused by gravity or handling of the fluid reservoir 600. Of course, if the fluid chamber 626 is highly pressurized, then some medication fluid may be forced out of the vent holes 640 while the fluid chamber 626 equalizes.

Each vent hole 640 provides a venting conduit from inside the fluid chamber 626 to outside the fluid chamber 626. More specifically, each vent hole 640 is realized as a fluid conduit that communicates at one end with the fluid chamber 626 and at the other end with the interior surface 628 of the funnel element 623. Thus, each vent hole 640 terminates at the interior surface 628. When the fluid reservoir 600 is disengaged from the fluid infusion device, the vent holes 640 may be visible from the top of the fluid reservoir 600, as shown in FIG. 18.

In operation, the fluid delivery port 622 and the funnel element 623 engage and cooperate with the sealing element 604 and with the hollow fluid delivery needle 602 in the manner generally described above with reference to the fluid infusion device 100. When the fluid delivery port 622 is installed and pressed over the sealing element 604, the tip section 606 of the sealing element 604 is urged against the contoured interior surface 628 of the funnel element 623. This action causes the exterior surface 610 of the sealing element 604 to contact and mate with the interior surface 628 of the funnel element 623. In turn, the tip section 606 (which may deform or expand in response to the coupling) covers and seals the vent holes 640. As mentioned previ-

21

ously, the tip **608** of the hollow fluid delivery needle pierces the septum **624** when the fluid reservoir **600** is introduced. In certain embodiments, the fluid delivery port **622**, the funnel element **623**, the sealing element **604**, and the hollow fluid delivery needle **602** are cooperatively configured such that the tip section **606** of the sealing element **604** seals the vent holes **640** before the hollow fluid delivery needle **602** pierces the septum **624**. This reduces or eliminates leakage of the medication fluid. The vent holes **640** remain sealed in this manner during operation of the fluid infusion device, such that the medication fluid is forced from the fluid chamber **626** and through the hollow fluid delivery needle **602** in the intended manner.

Another embodiment of a vented fluid reservoir will now be described with reference to FIG. **19** and FIG. **20**. FIG. **19** is a phantom side view of a fluid reservoir **700** in an open or vented state, and FIG. **20** is a phantom side view of the fluid reservoir **700** in a sealed state. It should be appreciated that the fluid reservoir **700** may be utilized with the fluid infusion device **100** (or a slightly modified version thereof) described above with reference to FIGS. **1-6**. Accordingly, common features, structures, elements, and functionality will not be redundantly described here in the context of the fluid reservoir **700**.

The illustrated embodiment of the fluid reservoir **700** generally includes, without limitation: a main body section **702**; a fluid delivery port **704**; a valve sleeve **706**; and a septum **708**. The main body section **702** includes a fluid chamber **710** defined therein. The fluid chamber **710** accommodates the medication fluid to be delivered to the patient. The fluid delivery port **704** is coupled to and extends from the main body section **702**. In certain embodiments, the fluid delivery port **704** is integrally formed with the main body section **702**. For example, the fluid delivery port **704** and the main body section **702** may be fabricated from a molded plastic material. The fluid delivery port **704** includes or defines a fluid conduit **712** that communicates with the fluid chamber **710**.

This particular embodiment of the fluid delivery port **704** has a generally cylindrical shape that resembles a neck region extending from the main body section **702**. The fluid delivery port **704** terminates at a port opening **714**. The port opening **714** is realized as a round rim or lip at the end of the fluid delivery port **704**. As shown in FIG. **19** and FIG. **20**, the perimeter edge of the fluid delivery port **704** may be beveled or "pointed" if so desired (beveling in this manner may be desirable for purposes of creating a good seal with the septum **708**).

Although not always required, the illustrated embodiment of the fluid delivery port **704** includes a circumferential groove **716** formed therein (around the outer surface). The groove **716** may be defined as a region between a shoulder **718** of the main body section **702** and a barb portion **720** of the fluid delivery port **704**. For this embodiment, the barb portion **720** is located at or near the port opening **714**. In alternative embodiments, the groove **716** could be positioned anywhere along the length of the fluid delivery port **704**. The groove **716** receives an interior ridge **724** of the valve sleeve **706**, which is formed within an attachment receptacle of the valve sleeve **706**. This attachment receptacle is generally defined by the interior region below the septum **708** in FIG. **19** and FIG. **20**. The attachment receptacle is shaped, sized, and otherwise configured to receive the fluid delivery port **704** as shown in the figures. The interior ridge **724** may be implemented as a continuous protrusion positioned within the attachment receptacle such that it completely encircles the fluid delivery port **704**. The

22

dimensions of the interior ridge **724** and the groove **716** are selected such that the valve sleeve **706** can be "snapped" into place and retained on the fluid delivery port **704** in a manner that accommodates translational movement of the valve sleeve **706** relative to the fluid delivery port **704**.

Notably, the groove **716** allows the valve sleeve **706** to move toward the fluid chamber **710** until movement is inhibited by the shoulder **718** and/or by other structure of the fluid reservoir **700**, or until movement is inhibited by engagement between the septum **708** and the port opening **714** (see FIG. **20**). Similarly, the groove **716** allows the valve sleeve **706** to move away from the fluid chamber **710** until movement of the interior ridge **724** is inhibited by the barb portion **720** of the fluid delivery port **704** (see FIG. **19**). Thus, the valve sleeve **706** is movably coupled to the fluid delivery port **704**, and the attachment receptacle of the valve sleeve **706** is sized to accommodate translation of the valve sleeve **706** relative to the fluid delivery port **704** and, more particularly, relative to the port opening **714**.

The septum **708** is located within a septum receptacle **728** defined within the valve sleeve **706**. The septum receptacle **728** may be realized as an interior groove or channel formed in the inner wall of the valve sleeve **706**. In the illustrated embodiment, the septum receptacle **728** is adjacent to the attachment receptacle, such that one surface of the septum **708** (i.e., the lower surface in FIG. **19** and FIG. **20**) defines a boundary of the attachment receptacle. The septum receptacle **728** receives and holds the septum **708** in a fixed position relative to the valve sleeve **706**. In other words, the septum receptacle **728** maintains the septum **708** in place such that the septum **708** translates in concert with the valve sleeve **706**. In this regard, the septum **708** is movably coupled to the fluid delivery port **704** by way of the valve sleeve **706**.

The valve sleeve **706** also includes a sleeve opening **730** that is adjacent to the septum receptacle **728**. The sleeve opening **730** is arranged such that at least a portion of the septum **708** is accessible via the sleeve opening **730**. As shown in FIG. **19** and FIG. **20**, the upper surface of the septum **708** is exposed in the sleeve opening **730**. The sleeve opening **730** allows a hollow fluid delivery needle of the fluid infusion device to pierce or otherwise pass through the septum **708** to gain entry to the fluid conduit **712**.

The valve sleeve **706** and the septum **708** are movable between a sealed position (shown in FIG. **20**) and an open or vented position (shown in FIG. **19**). The sealed position is achieved when the fluid reservoir **700** is engaged with the fluid delivery needle of the fluid infusion device. More specifically, the septum **708** and the valve sleeve **706** are urged into the sealed position when the fluid delivery needle is forced against and through the septum **708**. Additionally or alternatively, the septum **708** could be urged into the sealed position when the valve sleeve **706** abuts structure of the base plate. When in the sealed position, the surface of the septum **708** contacts the port opening **714** to form a circumferential seal around the port opening **714**. This seal inhibits fluid flow between the fluid delivery port **704** and the septum **708** during a delivery cycle (which is intended to force the medication fluid through the delivery needle). For simplicity, the needle and its associated base plate mounting structure are not shown in FIG. **20**.

When the fluid reservoir **700** is removed from the fluid infusion device and, therefore, is disengaged from the fluid delivery needle, the valve sleeve **706** and the septum **708** are free to move relative to the fluid delivery port **704**. Accordingly, the valve sleeve **706** and the septum **708** are free to move into the vented position in response to a pressure

23

differential condition where pressure in the fluid chamber 710 exceeds the ambient pressure. Under these conditions, the excess pressure inside the fluid chamber 710 can be released through the port opening 714 because the valve sleeve 706 and the septum 708 function as a pressure relief valve. When subjected to excess pressure in this manner, the septum 708 moves slightly upward, which creates a gap between the bottom surface of the septum 708 and the port opening 714. Consequently, the septum 708 permits fluid to flow out of the fluid delivery port 704 via the port opening 714 when the valve sleeve 706 is in the vented position. After the pressure is equalized, however, the valve sleeve 706 and the septum 708 might naturally return to the sealed position shown in FIG. 20, especially if the fluid reservoir 700 is held in the depicted orientation (where the force of gravity may cause the valve sleeve 706 to fall into the sealed position).

Needleless Fluid Reservoir Interface

The embodiments described above utilize a hollow needle that engages the fluid reservoir during operation of the fluid infusion device. An alternative needleless implementation will now be described with reference to FIG. 21 and FIG. 22. FIG. 21 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view of a fluid reservoir 800 and a self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802 suitable for use with a fluid infusion device, and FIG. 22 is an end view of the fluid reservoir 800 as viewed from the perspective of line 22-22 in FIG. 21. The fluid reservoir 800 and the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802 may be utilized with the fluid infusion device 100 (or a slightly modified version thereof) described above with reference to FIGS. 1-6. Accordingly, common features, structures, elements, and functionality will not be redundantly described here in the context of the fluid reservoir 800 and the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802.

The fluid reservoir 800 may be intended to be a user-filled or refillable unit, or it could be designed to be a disposable pre-filled unit, depending upon the particular application. The fluid reservoir 800 includes a main body section 804 that defines an interior fluid chamber 806 for holding the desired fluid, e.g., a medication fluid such as insulin. The fluid reservoir 800 also includes a fluid delivery port 808 that is coupled to, and extends from, the main body section 804. The fluid delivery port 808 includes or otherwise defines a fluid conduit 810 that communicates with the fluid chamber 806. The fluid conduit 810 is used to deliver the fluid from the fluid chamber 806. In certain embodiments, the fluid conduit 810 may also be used as the fill port of the fluid reservoir 800.

Notably, the fluid reservoir 800 is "unsealed" in that the fluid delivery port 808 terminates at an unsealed port opening 812. In this regard, the fluid delivery port 808 does not include a septum or any equivalent form of fluid seal that remains in place during use of the fluid infusion device. That said, the fluid reservoir 800 could be manufactured and provided with a protective seal or film that is removed prior to use. For instance, a prefilled version of the fluid reservoir 800 may include a temporary cover, lid, or cap that can be removed prior to use. In the context of a user-filled unit, the unsealed nature of the fluid reservoir 800 allows the fluid chamber 806 to be filled in a manner that inherently equalizes the pressure. Consequently, the fluid chamber 806 will not be over-pressurized when the fluid reservoir 800 is introduced to the fluid infusion device.

The fluid delivery port 808 and the port opening 812 are shaped and sized in accordance with the dimensions of the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802. More specifically, the fluid delivery port 808 and the port opening 812 are

24

shaped and dimensioned to facilitate mating and engagement with the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802. In this regard, the fluid delivery port 808 is inserted into the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802 to enable the fluid reservoir 800 to provide the medication fluid to the body of the patient via the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802.

In certain embodiments, the port opening 812 includes at least one flow path 814 (see FIG. 22) that allows the medication fluid to flow from the fluid conduit 810 and into the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802 when the fluid reservoir 800 is engaged with and coupled to the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802. The illustrated embodiment employs five channels formed in the exposed rim 816 of the fluid delivery port 808. The fluid is able to flow through these channels during a delivery cycle of the fluid infusion device (as described in more detail below). In alternative embodiments, the at least one flow path 814 may be realized as through holes, slits, or any suitably configured conduit to pass the medication fluid. Moreover, the port opening 812 could be shaped (e.g., to resemble a crown) in any desired way to enable the medication fluid to flow from the fluid conduit 810 during use.

In various embodiments, the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802 is coupled to, provided with, or incorporated into a base plate of the fluid infusion device (see, for example, a similar arrangement depicted in FIG. 1 and FIG. 3). As mentioned previously, the fluid infusion device may include a suitable delivery conduit, such as the cannula 112 shown in FIG. 1, wherein the delivery conduit provides the medication fluid to the body. Accordingly, the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802 may be located on the base plate to establish a flow path for the medication fluid from the fluid reservoir 800 to the delivery conduit.

The illustrated embodiment of the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802 is implemented as a needleless component. In other words, a delivery needle is not utilized with either the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802 or the fluid reservoir 800. Rather, the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802 incorporates a biased valve element 830 that is nominally closed in its natural state, but is opened in response to engagement of the fluid reservoir 800. Referring to FIG. 21, the exemplary embodiment of the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle 802 generally includes, without limitation: an inlet 832; a valve chamber 834 for the valve element 830; and an outlet 836. For this particular embodiment, the inlet 832, the valve chamber 834, and the outlet 836 are joined together to define a continuous hollow interior pathway.

The inlet 832 is suitably configured, shaped, and sized to receive the fluid delivery port 808 of the fluid reservoir 800. For this embodiment, the inlet 832 includes an interior 838 that is sized to receive the fluid delivery port 808. In alternative embodiments, the inlet 832 may be sized to fit inside the fluid conduit 810. The inlet 832 may also include or cooperate with a sealing element 840 that forms a seal with the outer surface of the fluid delivery port 808 when the fluid delivery port 808 is engaged with the inlet 832. In various embodiments, the sealing element 840 is realized as a resilient gasket, o-ring, washer, or the like. Moreover, although the depicted embodiment has the sealing element 840 incorporated into the inlet 832, the sealing element 840 may alternatively (or additionally) be incorporated into the fluid delivery port 808. When the fluid delivery port 808 is engaged with the inlet 832, the sealing element 840 inhibits leakage of fluid from the port opening 812 and from the valve chamber 834.

25

The valve chamber **834** is in fluid communication with the inlet **832**. For this particular embodiment, the downstream end of the inlet **832** corresponds to the upstream end of the valve chamber **834**, as shown in FIG. **21**. The valve chamber **834** is shaped, sized, and otherwise configured to retain the valve element **830** while allowing the valve element **830** to translate in the upstream and downstream directions within the valve chamber **834**. The upstream end of the valve chamber **834** may include a retaining shoulder **844** formed therein. The retaining shoulder **844** may be defined as the transition from a relatively small inner dimension corresponding to the inlet **832** to a relatively large inner dimension corresponding to the valve chamber **834**. In other words, the retaining shoulder **844** represents a neck region that prevents the valve element **830** from completely entering the inlet **832**.

The self-sealing reservoir port receptacle **802** also includes a resilient compression element **846** located in the valve chamber **834**. The resilient compression element **846** can be positioned between the valve element **830** and the downstream end of the valve chamber **834**. The resilient compression element **846** is sized and configured to bias the valve element **830** toward the inlet **832** (as shown in FIG. **21**). In other words, the resilient compression element **846** naturally urges the valve element **830** against the retaining shoulder **844** and into a sealed position to form a fluid seal between the valve element **830** and the inlet **832**. In certain embodiments, the resilient compression element **846** is realized as a spring. Alternatively, the resilient compression element **846** could be realized as a compressible plug, an accordion-like member, or the like.

The valve element **830** may be shaped and sized as appropriate for the particular embodiment. FIG. **21** depicts one exemplary embodiment where the valve element **830** is realized as a ball valve, i.e., the valve element **830** includes a spherical component. Thus, the valve chamber **834** may be fabricated as a cylindrical cavity to accommodate the round profile of the valve element **830**. Alternatively, the valve element **830** could be realized as a cylindrical plug. Various shapes and configurations could be utilized for the valve element **830**, and the ball valve implementation is merely one suitable embodiment.

The downstream end of the valve chamber **834** is in fluid communication with the outlet **836** such that medication fluid can pass through the valve chamber **834** and into the outlet **836**. The outlet **836** provides a fluid flow path **848** for the medication fluid. In this regard, the fluid flow path **848** may be routed through the base plate and/or through other structure of the fluid infusion device, and to the delivery conduit that leads to the body of the user, as described previously. In other words, the outlet **836** can be positioned between the valve chamber **834** and the delivery conduit.

FIG. **21** shows the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle **802** in its sealed position. The sealed state is automatically assumed in the absence of the fluid reservoir **800**. In other words, when the fluid delivery port **808** is disengaged from the inlet **832** of the self-sealing reservoir port receptacle **802**, the resilient compression element **846** forces the valve element **830** toward the inlet **832** and against the retaining shoulder **844**, which in turn forms a fluid seal between the valve element **830** and the inlet **832**. This seal is desirable to prevent backflow leakage of the medication fluid and to reduce the likelihood of contamination of the fluid path.

Engagement of the fluid delivery port **808** with the inlet **832** causes the end of the fluid delivery port **808** to contact the valve element **830**. Further engagement and complete coupling of the fluid delivery port **808** within the inlet **832**

26

causes the end of the fluid delivery port **808** to move the valve element **830** from the sealed position (shown in FIG. **21**) to an opened position. In the opened position, the valve element **830** is forced in the downstream direction toward the outlet **836**. As a result of this movement, the resilient compression element **846** becomes compressed and compacted within the valve chamber **834**. Retraction of the valve element **830** in this manner also enables the fluid delivery port **808** to gain access to the valve chamber **834**, which in turn accommodates flow of the medication fluid from the fluid reservoir **800** and into the valve chamber **834**. Referring again to FIG. **22**, the at least one flow path **814** in the exposed rim **816** ensures that the medication fluid can flow into the valve chamber **834** (even though the end of the fluid delivery port **808** is in contact with the valve element **830**).

Needled Fluid Reservoir For A Fluid Infusion Device

Most of the embodiments described previously employ a hollow fluid delivery needle that is provided with a base plate of a fluid infusion device (see, for example, FIGS. **1-5**). The needle in such embodiments cooperates with a sealed or an open fluid reservoir, wherein the needle is introduced into the fluid chamber of the fluid reservoir to accommodate delivery of the medication fluid from the fluid chamber, through the needle, and to the body of the patient.

Alternatively, the embodiments presented in this section utilize a needled fluid reservoir, i.e., a fluid reservoir having a hollow fluid delivery needle incorporated therein. The hollow needle engages a suitably configured reservoir port receptacle, which may be located on the base plate of the fluid infusion device. The reservoir port receptacle includes a fluid conduit that is used to deliver the medication fluid to the body of the patient. In certain embodiments, the reservoir needle is unsealed and, therefore, open to ambient pressure. Accordingly, the fluid infusion device includes an appropriate sealing arrangement to establish a fluid seal with the hollow needle when the fluid reservoir is engaged with the reservoir port receptacle.

FIGS. **23-29** relate to a first embodiment of a needled fluid reservoir **900** that is suitable for use with a compatible fluid infusion device. FIG. **23** is a perspective view of the fluid reservoir **900**, and FIG. **24** is a cross-sectional view of an end portion **902** of the fluid reservoir **900**. It should be appreciated that the fluid reservoir **900** could be utilized with a modified version of the fluid infusion device **100** described above with reference to FIGS. **1-6**. Accordingly, common features, structures, elements, and functionality will not be redundantly described here with reference to FIGS. **23-29**. Moreover, the fluid reservoir **900** shares a number of features and elements with some of the fluid reservoirs described previously. For the sake of brevity, such common features and elements will not be described in detail again in the context of the fluid reservoir **900**.

Referring to FIG. **23** and FIG. **24**, the fluid reservoir **900** includes a main body section **904** that defines an interior fluid chamber **906** for a fluid to be delivered, such as a medication fluid. The fluid reservoir **900** also includes a hollow needle **908** extending from the main body section **904** and defining a fluid conduit **910** (see FIG. **24**) that communicates with the fluid chamber **906**. Although not always required, the illustrated embodiment of the hollow needle **908** is realized as a separate component that is physically coupled to the main body section **904** (and/or to a structural feature defined in the main body section **904**) in an appropriate manner to communicate with the fluid chamber **906**. In this regard, the hollow needle **908** and the main body section **904** in this particular embodiment are realized as two physically distinct and separate components that are

27

assembled together into the configuration shown in the figures. For example, the main body section **904** could be fabricated from a molded plastic material, and the hollow needle **908** could be fabricated from a metal material, as appropriate to the specific embodiment. In practice, the hollow needle **908** is coupled to the main body section **904** in a way that prevents leakage of fluid between the main body section **904** and the outer surface of the hollow needle **908**.

As best shown in FIG. **24**, the hollow needle **908** terminates at a needle end **912** that forms or otherwise defines a blunt tip **914**. The blunt tip **914** may be flat (as shown), rounded, mushroom-shaped, or otherwise contoured in a way that does not result in a sharp or pointed needle end **912**. Moreover, the hollow needle **908** may be unsealed such that the fluid conduit **910** remains open to ambient or atmospheric pressure, which is desirable to enable the fluid reservoir **900** to equalize its internal pressure inside the fluid chamber **906** via the hollow needle **908**. The fluid conduit **910** is preferably sized to inhibit or prevent natural leakage of the fluid, while still accommodating the delivery of the medication fluid from the fluid chamber **906**. Moreover, for embodiments where the hollow needle **908** also serves as the fill needle, the fluid conduit **910** is sized to enable quick and easy filling of the fluid reservoir **900**. As described in more detail below, the blunt tip **914** is suitably sized, shaped, and configured to engage a sealing element of the fluid infusion device.

Various embodiments of the fluid reservoir **900** include a needle hood **916** that at least partially covers the hollow needle **908**. The needle hood **916** extends from the main body section **904** to at least partially surround the hollow needle **908**, while still providing access to the hollow needle **908** from the end, as best shown in FIG. **23**. As depicted in FIG. **24**, the illustrated embodiment of the needle hood **916** is integrated with the main body section **904**. Thus, the needle hood **916** can be molded together with the main body section **904** as a unitary component. The needle hood **916** terminates at a lip **918**. In certain embodiments, the lip **918** extends further from the main body section **904** than the needle end **912**. In other words, the blunt tip **914** of the hollow needle **908** does not protrude from the lip **918** (see FIG. **24**). This arrangement is desirable to protect the hollow needle **908** from damage and contamination. This arrangement also protects the user if the hollow needle **908** is provided with a sharp tip.

The fluid reservoir **900** may also include an alignment structure that mates with cooperating structure of the reservoir port receptacle of the fluid infusion device (see FIG. **25** and related description). Although not always required, at least a portion of the alignment structure may be integrally formed with the needle hood **916**. For example, the illustrated embodiment of the fluid reservoir **900** utilizes opposing guide rails **920** and a particular shape for the needle hood **916** (e.g., an inverted “U” shape when viewed from the perspective of FIG. **23**) that cooperate to provide the desired alignment features. The guide rails **920** and the shape of the needle hood **916** have corresponding mating features on the reservoir port receptacle shown in FIG. **25**.

FIG. **25** is a perspective view of a section **922** of a fluid infusion device, including a reservoir port receptacle **924** suitable for engagement with the fluid reservoir **900**. The section **922** may represent a portion of a base plate of the fluid infusion device (see FIGS. **3-6**, which show the base plate **104** with a similarly configured section for the fluid infusion device **100**). FIG. **26** is a perspective view of a sealing and conduit component **926** suitable for use in the

28

section **922** shown in FIG. **25**, and FIG. **27** is a cross-sectional view of the section **922**, as viewed from the perspective of line **27-27** in FIG. **25**.

The reservoir port receptacle **924** includes suitably designed mating structure **928** that is intended to engage and mate with the needle hood **916** and, more particularly, to engage with the alignment structure of the needle hood **916**. For this particular embodiment, the mating structure **928** is realized as two shoulders or channels that cooperate with the guide rails **920** when the fluid reservoir **900** is coupled to the reservoir port receptacle **924**. Moreover, the overall outer shape and contour of the reservoir port receptacle **924** can be shaped and sized to match the interior space defined by the needle hood **916**. These features cooperate to orient, align, and guide the needle hood **916** over the reservoir port receptacle **924**. Accordingly, the alignment structure of the fluid reservoir **900** cooperates with the mating structure **928** to align and orient the hollow needle **908** relative to the reservoir port receptacle **924**. This facilitates proper introduction and insertion of the hollow needle **908** into a sealing element **930** of the reservoir port receptacle **924**.

The sealing and conduit component **926** may be realized as an insert or a plug that is received within the section **922**, as shown in FIG. **27**. The sealing element **930** may be coupled to or integrally formed with the sealing and conduit component **926**, as shown in FIG. **26** and FIG. **27**. The embodiment of the sealing element **930** shown in FIG. **27** includes a self-sealing opening **932** to receive the hollow needle **908**. Notably, the self-sealing opening **932** is particularly suitable for use with the blunt tip **914**, which is not designed to pierce or puncture the sealing element **930**. Rather, the blunt tip **914** can pass through the self-sealing opening **932** when the fluid reservoir **900** is urged into the reservoir port receptacle **924** (as depicted in FIG. **29**).

FIG. **28** is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view that illustrates the fluid reservoir **900** before engagement with the section **922** of the fluid infusion device, and FIG. **29** is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view that illustrates the fluid reservoir **900** after engagement with the section **922**. In FIG. **28**, the needle end **912** has not yet contacted the sealing element **930**. Accordingly, the self-sealing opening **932** exhibits a sealed or compressed state to prevent fluid ingress into an outlet conduit **934** of the reservoir port receptacle **924**. In FIG. **29**, however, engagement of the fluid reservoir **900** with the reservoir port receptacle **924** causes the blunt tip **914** to penetrate the self-sealing opening **932** such that the needle end **912** resides within the outlet conduit **934**. Accordingly, fluid communication is established from the fluid chamber **906** to the outlet conduit **934**, via the hollow needle **908**. In this state, the sealing element **930** forms a seal around the exterior surface of the hollow needle **908** to inhibit fluid leakage from the outlet conduit **934**.

As shown in FIGS. **27-29**, the outlet conduit **934** may be at least partially defined by the sealing element **930**. For this particular embodiment, the outlet conduit **934** is integrally formed within the sealing and conduit component **926** to provide a fluid flow path from the self-sealing opening **932**, across a span of the section **922** (see FIG. **27**) and into a fluid chamber **936** defined in the base plate. The fluid chamber **936** may be fluidly coupled to a delivery conduit such as a cannula (see FIG. **1**, which shows the cannula **112** for the fluid infusion device **100**) for purposes of fluid delivery to the body of the patient. Thus, the sealing and conduit component **926** may be employed instead of a “J” shaped hollow needle as described above with reference to FIG. **6**.

29

It should be appreciated that the needle hood **916** and/or the alignment structure of the fluid reservoir **900** may also be designed to mate and cooperate with corresponding structure of a reservoir filling apparatus. In this regard, the alignment structure could also serve to align and orient the hollow needle **908** relative to the reservoir filling apparatus to facilitate insertion of the hollow needle **908** into a sealing element or entry port of the reservoir filling apparatus. This dual-purpose nature of the needle hood **916** and alignment structure may be desirable for embodiments of the fluid reservoir **900** that use the same hollow needle **908** for both filling and delivery of the medication fluid.

FIGS. **30-33** relate to a second embodiment of a needled fluid reservoir **940** that is suitable for use with a compatible fluid infusion device. The fluid reservoir **940** and the related features of the fluid infusion device are similar in many respects to that described above for the fluid reservoir **900**. Accordingly, for the sake of brevity and clarity, the following description referring to FIGS. **30-33** is abbreviated in nature.

The fluid reservoir **940** is very similar to the fluid reservoir **900**, except for its use of a hollow needle **942** terminating at a sharp tip **944** (rather than a blunt or rounded tip). Likewise, the sealing and conduit component **946** shown in FIG. **31** is substantially identical to the sealing and conduit component **926** described above. Notably, however, the sealing and conduit component **946** includes a pierceable sealing element **948** (rather than a self-sealing element having a predefined slit, hole, or slot formed therein) that is suitably configured to accommodate the sharp tip **944**. Thus, the sharp tip **944** pierces the sealing element **948** when the fluid reservoir **940** is coupled to the reservoir port receptacle **950**.

FIG. **32** is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view that illustrates the fluid reservoir **940** before engagement with the reservoir port receptacle **950**, and FIG. **33** is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view that illustrates the fluid reservoir **940** after engagement with the reservoir port receptacle **950**. In FIG. **32**, the hollow needle **942** has not yet contacted the sealing element **948**, which remains solid and intact. In FIG. **33**, however, engagement of the fluid reservoir **940** with the reservoir port receptacle **950** causes the sharp tip **944** to pierce the sealing element **948** such that the end of the hollow needle **942** resides within the outlet conduit **952**. Accordingly, fluid communication is established from the fluid chamber **954** of the fluid reservoir **940** to the outlet conduit **952**, via the hollow needle **942**. In the state depicted in FIG. **33**, the sealing element **948** forms a seal around the exterior surface of the hollow needle **942** to inhibit fluid leakage from the outlet conduit **952**.

FIGS. **34-39** relate to a third embodiment of a needled fluid reservoir **960** that is suitable for use with a compatible fluid infusion device. The fluid reservoir **960** and the related features of the fluid infusion device are similar in many respects to that described above for the fluid reservoir **900**. Accordingly, for the sake of brevity and clarity, the following description referring to FIGS. **34-39** is abbreviated in nature.

The fluid reservoir **960** is very similar to the fluid reservoir **900**, except for its use of an integrated hollow needle **962** rather than a physically distinct and separate needle component. In this regard, the hollow needle **962** is integrated and contiguous with the main body section **964** of the fluid reservoir **960**. In certain embodiments, the hollow needle **962** and the main body section **964** are molded together from the same material (e.g., a plastic material) to create a unitary single component. The integrated nature of

30

the hollow needle **962** is depicted in FIG. **35**, which shows how the base **966** of the hollow needle **962** blends with (and is continuous with) the main body section **964**. Although not always required, the illustrated embodiment of the hollow needle **962** terminates at a rounded, blunt tip **968**. Alternatively, a pointed, angled, or sharp tip could be utilized.

FIG. **36** depicts a section **970** of the fluid infusion device; the section **970** may represent a portion of the base plate (as described above). The section **970** houses a sealing and conduit component **972**, which has the general characteristics and functionality described above for the previous two embodiments. The sealing and conduit component **972** includes or cooperates with a sealing element **974**, which is accessible via a reservoir port receptacle **976**. Notably, the sealing element **974** has an unsealed (open) inlet end **978** that is sized, shaped, and otherwise configured to receive the hollow needle **962**. Moreover, the illustrated embodiment of the sealing element **974** has an outlet end **980** that is downstream from the inlet end **978**. The outlet end **980** includes, cooperates with, or defines a pressure valve **982** that actuates in response to a fluid delivery action of the fluid infusion device, to accommodate flow of the medication fluid from the hollow needle to an outlet conduit **984**. Consequently, even though the inlet end **978** of the sealing element **974** is open and exposed, the outlet conduit **984** is protected by the pressure valve **982** when the fluid reservoir **960** is removed from the reservoir port receptacle **976**.

FIG. **38** is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view that illustrates the fluid reservoir **960** before engagement with the reservoir port receptacle **976**, and FIG. **39** is a cross-sectional and partially phantom view that illustrates the fluid reservoir **960** after engagement with the reservoir port receptacle **976**. In FIG. **38**, the hollow needle **962** has not yet entered the sealing element **974**. In FIG. **39**, however, engagement of the fluid reservoir **960** with the reservoir port receptacle **976** urges the hollow needle **962** into the inlet end **978** of the sealing element **974** such that the end of the hollow needle **962** resides within a valve chamber **986** defined within the sealing element **974**. Accordingly, fluid communication is established from the fluid chamber **988** of the fluid reservoir **960** to the valve chamber **986**, via the hollow needle **962**. In the state depicted in FIG. **39**, the sealing element **974** forms a seal around the exterior surface of the hollow needle **962** to inhibit fluid leakage from the valve chamber **986**.

FIG. **39** depicts the pressure valve **982** in a closed state, which is indicative of a lack of sufficient fluid pressure within the valve chamber **986**. In contrast, when the plunger (not shown) of the fluid reservoir **960** is activated for a fluid delivery pulse, cycle, or action, the pressure valve **982** actuates and opens to accommodate flow of the medication fluid from the hollow needle **962** and through the pressure valve **982**, by way of the valve chamber **986**. The medication fluid is also urged through the outlet conduit **984**, which may lead to a cannula that provides the medication fluid to the body of the patient.

Sealing Arrangement For A Needled Fluid Reservoir

As described previously (with reference to FIGS. **1-3** and FIGS. **34-39**), a fluid infusion device may cooperate with a needled fluid reservoir that engages a sealing arrangement to provide a fluid delivery flow path from the fluid infusion device to the body of the patient. FIGS. **40** and **41** depict (in cross-section) a portion of a fluid infusion device **1000** that incorporates another exemplary embodiment of a sealing assembly **1002** that cooperates with a fluid reservoir **1004** to form a sealed fluid flow path from the fluid reservoir **1004** to the patient. A number of features and aspects of the fluid

31

infusion device **1000** and the sealing assembly **1002** are similar to that described above for the embodiments depicted in FIGS. **1-3**, **25-29**, and **36-39**. For the sake of brevity and ease of description, shared or common features, structure, and functionality will not be redundantly described here with reference to the fluid infusion device **1000** and the sealing assembly **1002**.

The fluid infusion device **1000** generally includes a durable housing that engages and couples with a base plate, as described above with reference to FIGS. **1-3**. In certain embodiments, the fluid reservoir **1004** is installed onto the durable housing such that the fluid reservoir **1004** couples with the sealing assembly **1002** when the durable housing is introduced to the base plate. In this regard, FIG. **40** shows the fluid infusion device **1000** before the fluid reservoir **1004** mates with the sealing assembly **1002**, and FIG. **41** shows the fluid infusion device **1000** after the fluid reservoir **1004** is engaged with the sealing assembly **1002**.

A portion of a base plate **1006** of the fluid infusion device **1000** is depicted in FIGS. **40-42**. The illustrated embodiment of the fluid infusion device **1000** includes a reservoir port receptacle **1008** that is integrated with, coupled to, or implemented with the base plate **1006**. The reservoir port receptacle **1008** may be considered to be part of the sealing assembly **1002**. Accordingly, the sealing assembly **1002** as referred to here may include the base plate **1006** (or a portion thereof) and/or other structure or elements that cooperate with the reservoir port receptacle **1008**. The reservoir port receptacle **1008** is shaped, sized, and otherwise configured to accommodate and receive a reservoir port **1010** and a hollow fluid reservoir needle **1012** of the fluid reservoir **1004**. For this particular embodiment, the hollow fluid reservoir needle **1012** is located within the reservoir port **1010**, which may serve as a needle hood as described above for the fluid reservoir **900** (see FIG. **23**). In this regard, the reservoir port **1010** may extend further than a blunt tip **1014** of the hollow fluid reservoir needle **1012**. In other words, the blunt tip **1014** of the hollow fluid reservoir needle **1012** does not protrude from the end of the reservoir port **1010**. In alternative embodiments, a longer reservoir needle that extends beyond the end of the reservoir port **1010** could be utilized if so desired to suit the needs of the given application or system.

In certain embodiments, the fluid reservoir **1004** includes a diffuser **1015** positioned within the fluid path of the fluid reservoir needle **1012**. The diffuser **1015** may be realized as a porous and fluid permeable membrane or material that impedes fluid flow to inhibit leakage of fluid out of the fluid reservoir **1004** due to excess pressure that may be present inside of the fluid reservoir **1004**. The diffuser **1015** is suitably designed to accommodate the desired flow rate as intended during controlled fluid delivery operations.

The reservoir port receptacle includes a proximal end **1016**, an opposing distal end **1018** extending from the proximal end **1016**, and a needle opening **1020** formed in the distal end **1018**. The needle opening **1020** is shaped and sized to accommodate and receive the hollow fluid reservoir needle **1012**, as shown in FIG. **41**. Although not always required, the exterior surface of the reservoir port receptacle **1008** may be cylindrical. Moreover, although not always required, the needle opening **1020** in the illustrated embodiment is realized as a circular hole formed in the distal end **1018**. The reservoir port receptacle **1008** may also include or cooperate with a retaining structure, feature, or element to maintain a needle sealing element **1022** between the distal end **1018** and the proximal end **1016**. In certain embodiments, the retaining structure is realized as an inwardly

32

protruding collar **1024**, which may be integrally formed in the distal end **1018** of the reservoir port receptacle **1008** (see FIG. **42**). The collar **1024** may be shaped, sized, and contoured as desired to maintain the needle sealing element **1022** in position within the reservoir port receptacle **1008**. In practice, the needle opening **1020** is large enough to accommodate the insertion of the needle sealing element **1022** into the reservoir port receptacle **1008** and to facilitate positioning and seating of the needle sealing element **1022** into the nominal position shown in FIG. **40**.

The illustrated embodiment of the sealing assembly **1002** includes a cap component **1030**, which may be a one-piece element or an assembly that includes two or more subcomponents. FIG. **43** is a perspective view of one exemplary embodiment of the cap component **1030**, which is realized as a composite component having a primary cap portion **1032** and a hollow needle **1034** coupled to the primary cap portion **1032**. In certain implementations, the hollow needle **1034** is sealed in a cavity formed within the primary cap portion **1032** (using a curable adhesive, an epoxy, or the like). The sealing material maintains the hollow needle **1034** in position and inhibits fluid leakage. The hollow needle **1034** represents one exemplary embodiment of an outlet conduit for the sealing assembly **1002**. In alternative embodiments, the outlet conduit may be integrally formed in the cap component **1030**.

The cap component **1030** is coupled to the reservoir port receptacle **1008** to provide a fluid flow path from the fluid reservoir **1004** to a delivery conduit of the fluid infusion device **1000**. More specifically, the hollow needle **1034** has a first end **1038** that is placed in fluid communication with the fluid reservoir needle **1012** when the fluid infusion device **1000** is in the state depicted in FIG. **41**. In certain embodiments, the cap component **1030** includes a hollow protrusion **1039** (which may be conical in shape), and a portion of the hollow needle **1034** extends through the hollow protrusion **1039**. As shown in FIG. **41** and FIG. **42**, the hollow needle **1034** for this particular embodiment is "C" or "J" shaped to provide a fluid flow path from the first end **1038**, across the length of the cap component **1030**, and to a second end **1040**. The second end **1040** leads to a fluid chamber **1044** defined in the base plate **1006**. The fluid chamber **1044** is fluidly coupled to a delivery conduit of the fluid infusion device, e.g., the cannula **112** (FIG. **1**) such that when a plunger of the fluid reservoir **1004** is actuated, the fluid is expelled from the fluid reservoir **1004**, through the hollow needle **1034**, into the fluid chamber **1044**, and into the body of the patient via the cannula **112**.

The base plate **1006** includes a suitably shaped and sized fluid chamber **1050** defined therein. For the illustrated embodiment, the fluid chamber **1050** is located at least partially in the reservoir port receptacle **1008**. More specifically, the fluid chamber **1050** is at least partially defined in the cap component **1030**. In this regard, the fluid chamber **1050** may be generally defined as the interior area within the cap component **1030** that terminates at an abutment surface **1052** of the cap component **1030** (see FIG. **43**). Consequently, the needle sealing element **1022** is positioned between the distal end **1018** of the reservoir port receptacle and the fluid chamber **1050**. In operation, fluid expelled from the fluid reservoir **1004** enters the fluid chamber **1050** and passes into the first end **1038** of the hollow needle **1034**.

A portion of the cap component **1030** terminates at the abutment surface **1052**. As shown in FIGS. **40** and **41**, the needle sealing element **1022** is located between the distal end **1018** of the reservoir port receptacle **1008** and the abutment surface **1052**. Thus, the needle sealing element

33

1022 is held in place by the abutment surface 1052 in cooperation with the collar 1024. Alternatively, any suitably configured abutment structure could be implemented to maintain the needle sealing element 1022 in place. For example, the interior of the reservoir port receptacle 1008 could be fabricated with protruding features or a shoulder that functions as an abutment structure. Notably, the abutment structure provides support around the perimeter of the needle sealing element 1022 to allow entry of the fluid reservoir needle 1012 into the fluid chamber 1050 as needed. In other words, the abutment structure does not interfere with the desired travel of the fluid reservoir needle 1012 (see FIG. 41).

FIG. 44 is a perspective view of the needle sealing element 1022, and FIG. 45 is an end view of the needle sealing element 1022. The needle sealing element 1022 may be integrally formed as a one-piece component from a resilient and deformable material, such as rubber, urethane, or the like. In certain embodiments, the needle sealing element 1022 is formed from a pliable silicone material. The needle sealing element 1022 includes outer sealing surfaces 1060, a self-sealing needle opening 1062 formed therein, and a tapered opening 1064 that is shaped and sized to receive the blunt tip 1014 of the fluid reservoir needle 1012. For this particular embodiment, the self-sealing needle opening 1062 is coaxial with the tapered opening 1064, i.e., the tapered opening 1064 naturally guides the blunt tip 1014 into the self-sealing needle opening 1062 when the fluid reservoir needle 1012 is urged into the needle sealing element 1022.

Operation of the sealing assembly 1002 will now be described with reference to FIGS. 40 and 41. FIG. 40 depicts the fluid infusion device 1000 in a disengaged state, where the reservoir port 1010 is not yet fully engaged with or mated to the reservoir port receptacle 1008. In contrast, FIG. 41 depicts the fluid infusion device 1000 in an engaged state, where the reservoir port 1010 is engaged with and mated to the reservoir port receptacle 1008. When the fluid infusion device 1000 is in the disengaged state, the needle sealing element 1022 returns to a nominal state while remaining retained within the reservoir port receptacle 1008. In this nominal state, the needle sealing element is compressed to inhibit fluid flow between the outer sealing surfaces 1060 of the needle sealing element 1022 and the interior surface of the reservoir port receptacle. Moreover, the needle sealing element 1022 is held under compression such that the self-sealing needle opening 1062 remains closed. In other words, fluid flow through the self-sealing needle opening 1062 is inhibited when the fluid infusion device 1000 is in the disengaged state shown in FIG. 40. Thus, any fluid contained in the fluid chamber 1050 remains trapped and does not leak beyond the needle sealing element 1022.

Coupling of the reservoir port 101 to the reservoir port receptacle 1008 causes the hollow fluid reservoir needle 1012 to be urged toward the needle sealing element 1022. Eventually, the blunt tip 1014 of the fluid reservoir needle 1012 enters the tapered opening 1064, which feeds the blunt tip 1014 into the self-sealing needle opening 1062. Thus, the self-sealing needle opening 1062 accommodates the hollow fluid reservoir needle when the reservoir port 1010 engages the reservoir port receptacle 1008. The blunt tip 1014 penetrates the self-sealing needle opening 1062 to establish fluid communication from the fluid reservoir needle 1012 to the fluid chamber 1050 (see FIG. 41). Moreover, the first end 1038 or inlet of the hollow needle 1034 fluidly communi-

34

cates with the fluid reservoir needle 1012 when the reservoir port 1010 engages the reservoir port receptacle 1008 in the manner depicted in FIG. 41.

When the reservoir port 1010 is mated with the reservoir port receptacle 1008, at least a portion of the fluid reservoir needle 1012 resides within the self-sealing needle opening 1062. More specifically, the needle sealing element 1022 seals the self-sealing needle opening 1062 around the exterior surface of the hollow fluid reservoir needle 1012. This external seal is created in response to the compression of the needle sealing element 1022 within the reservoir port receptacle 1008, which in turn is caused by entry of the fluid reservoir needle 1012. When the fluid infusion device 1000 is in the engaged state, the needle sealing element remains compressed to inhibit fluid flow between the outer sealing surfaces 1060 of the needle sealing element 1022 and the interior surface of the reservoir port receptacle, as described above. Consequently, fluid expelled from the fluid reservoir needle 1012 during a fluid delivery operation is forced into the fluid chamber 1050 and through the hollow needle 1034, and little to no fluid leaks around the needle sealing element 1022.

To summarize, when the fluid reservoir 1004 is urged into a mated position with the reservoir port receptacle 1008, the fluid reservoir needle 1012 enters and penetrates the needle sealing element 1022 via the self-sealing needle opening 1062, and the needle sealing element 1022 responds by creating an "internal" seal with the exterior surface of the fluid reservoir needle 1012 and by creating an "external" seal with the interior surface of the reservoir port receptacle 1008. Once seated, the end of the fluid reservoir needle 1012 extends into the fluid chamber 1050 to facilitate delivery of medication fluid to the body of the user. Thereafter, when the fluid reservoir 1004 is decoupled from the reservoir port receptacle, the fluid reservoir needle 1012 withdraws from the needle sealing element 1022, which responds by closing the self-sealing needle opening 1062 to inhibit fluid egress from the fluid chamber 1050.

While at least one exemplary embodiment has been presented in the foregoing detailed description, it should be appreciated that a vast number of variations exist. It should also be appreciated that the exemplary embodiment or embodiments described herein are not intended to limit the scope, applicability, or configuration of the claimed subject matter in any way. Rather, the foregoing detailed description will provide those skilled in the art with a convenient road map for implementing the described embodiment or embodiments. It should be understood that various changes can be made in the function and arrangement of elements without departing from the scope defined by the claims, which includes known equivalents and foreseeable equivalents at the time of filing this patent application.

What is claimed is:

1. A sealing assembly for a fluid infusion device that cooperates with a fluid reservoir having a reservoir port and a hollow fluid reservoir needle at least partially located within the reservoir port, the sealing assembly comprising:
 - a reservoir port receptacle to receive the reservoir port, and comprising a proximal end, a distal end extending from the proximal end, and a needle opening formed in the distal end to receive the hollow fluid reservoir needle, the reservoir port receptacle residing within the reservoir port when engaged therewith, and the hollow fluid reservoir needle residing within the reservoir port receptacle when the reservoir port engages the reservoir port receptacle;

35

a first fluid chamber located within the reservoir port receptacle;

a second fluid chamber separated from the reservoir port receptacle;

a cap component coupled to the reservoir port receptacle, the cap component having an outlet conduit formed therein, the outlet conduit having a first end in fluid communication with the first fluid chamber and having a second end in fluid communication with the second fluid chamber and with a delivery conduit of the fluid infusion device, and the cap component having a protruding section that terminates at an abutment surface, the protruding section extending into the reservoir port receptacle and having an interior area that defines the first fluid chamber; and

a needle sealing element having a self-sealing needle opening formed therein, the needle sealing element located within the reservoir port receptacle between the distal end of the reservoir port receptacle and the abutment surface of the cap component, wherein the self-sealing needle opening accommodates the hollow fluid reservoir needle when the reservoir port engages the reservoir port receptacle, wherein:

the hollow fluid reservoir needle terminates at a blunt tip; the needle sealing element comprises a tapered opening to receive the blunt tip; and

engagement of the reservoir port with the reservoir port receptacle causes the blunt tip to penetrate the self-sealing needle opening to establish fluid communication from the hollow fluid reservoir needle to the first fluid chamber.

2. The sealing assembly of claim 1, wherein the reservoir port receptacle comprises a retaining structure to maintain the needle sealing element between the distal end and the abutment surface.

3. The sealing assembly of claim 2, wherein the retaining structure comprises an inwardly protruding collar integrally formed in the distal end of the reservoir port receptacle.

4. The sealing assembly of claim 1, wherein the reservoir port receptacle is integrally formed in a base plate of the fluid infusion device.

5. The sealing assembly of claim 1, wherein the outlet conduit comprises a hollow needle.

6. The sealing assembly of claim 1, wherein the needle sealing element is retained within the reservoir port receptacle under an amount of compression to inhibit fluid flow between the needle sealing element and an interior surface of the reservoir port receptacle.

7. The sealing assembly of claim 1, wherein, when the reservoir port is disengaged from the reservoir port receptacle, the needle sealing element is retained within the reservoir port receptacle under an amount of compression to inhibit fluid flow through the self-sealing needle opening.

8. The sealing assembly of claim 1, wherein the needle sealing element is retained within the reservoir port receptacle under an amount of compression to seal the self-sealing needle opening around an exterior surface of the hollow fluid reservoir needle when the reservoir port is engaged with the reservoir port receptacle.

9. A sealing assembly for a fluid infusion device that cooperates with a fluid reservoir having a reservoir port and a hollow fluid reservoir needle at least partially located within the reservoir port, the sealing assembly comprising:

a base plate;

a reservoir port receptacle on the base plate to receive the reservoir port, and the reservoir port receptacle comprising a proximal end, a distal end extending from the

36

proximal end, and a needle opening formed in the distal end to receive the hollow fluid reservoir needle, the reservoir port receptacle residing within the reservoir port when engaged therewith, and the hollow fluid reservoir needle residing within the reservoir port receptacle when the reservoir port engages the reservoir port receptacle;

a cap component coupled to the reservoir port receptacle, the cap component having a protruding section that terminates at an abutment surface, the protruding section extending into the reservoir port receptacle and having an interior area that defines a first fluid chamber located within the reservoir port receptacle;

a second fluid chamber defined in the base plate and separated from the reservoir port receptacle;

a needle sealing element having a self-sealing needle opening formed therein, the needle sealing element located within the reservoir port receptacle between the distal end of the reservoir port receptacle and the abutment surface, wherein the self-sealing needle opening receives the hollow fluid reservoir needle when the reservoir port engages the reservoir port receptacle; and

a fluid outlet conduit in the cap component, the fluid outlet conduit having an inlet end in fluid communication with the first fluid chamber and having an outlet end in fluid communication with the second fluid chamber and with a delivery conduit of the fluid infusion device, wherein the inlet end fluidly communicates with the hollow fluid reservoir needle when the reservoir port engages the reservoir port receptacle, wherein:

the hollow fluid reservoir needle terminates at a blunt tip; the needle sealing element comprises a tapered opening to receive the blunt tip; and

engagement of the reservoir port with the reservoir port receptacle causes the blunt tip to penetrate the self-sealing needle opening to establish fluid communication from the hollow fluid reservoir needle to the first fluid chamber.

10. The sealing assembly of claim 9, wherein the needle sealing element is retained within the reservoir port receptacle under an amount of compression to inhibit fluid flow between the needle sealing element and an interior surface of the reservoir port receptacle.

11. The sealing assembly of claim 9, wherein:

when the reservoir port is disengaged from the reservoir port receptacle, the needle sealing element inhibits fluid flow through the self-sealing needle opening; and

when the reservoir port is engaged with the reservoir port receptacle, the needle sealing element seals the self-sealing needle opening around an exterior surface of the hollow fluid reservoir needle.

12. A fluid infusion device to deliver a medication fluid to a user, the fluid infusion device comprising:

a removable fluid reservoir comprising a reservoir port and a hollow fluid reservoir needle at least partially located within the reservoir port;

a base plate comprising a reservoir port receptacle to receive the reservoir port, the reservoir port receptacle comprising a proximal end, a distal end extending from the proximal end, and a needle opening formed in the distal end to receive the hollow fluid reservoir needle, the reservoir port receptacle residing within the reservoir port when engaged therewith, and the hollow fluid reservoir needle residing within the reservoir port receptacle when the reservoir port engages the reservoir port receptacle;

37

a cap component coupled to the reservoir port receptacle, the cap component having a protruding section that terminates at an abutment surface, the protruding section extending into the reservoir port receptacle and having an interior area that defines a first fluid chamber located within the reservoir port receptacle; 5

a second fluid chamber defined in the base plate and separated from the reservoir port receptacle;

an outlet conduit formed in the cap component and having an inlet end in fluid communication with the fluid chamber and having an outlet end in fluid communication with the second fluid chamber and with a delivery conduit of the fluid infusion device; and 10

a needle sealing element having a self-sealing needle opening formed therein, the sealing element located within the reservoir port receptacle between the distal end of the reservoir port receptacle and the abutment surface; wherein 15

the hollow fluid reservoir needle terminates at a blunt tip; 20

the needle sealing element comprises a tapered opening to receive the blunt tip;

38

engagement of the reservoir port with the reservoir port receptacle causes the blunt tip to penetrate the self-sealing needle opening to establish fluid communication from the hollow fluid reservoir needle to the first fluid chamber;

when the reservoir port is mated with the reservoir port receptacle, at least a portion of the hollow fluid reservoir needle resides within the self-sealing needle opening, the self-sealing needle opening forms a seal around an exterior surface of the hollow fluid reservoir needle, and the hollow fluid reservoir needle fluidly communicates with the first fluid chamber and with the inlet end of the outlet conduit; and

when the reservoir port is disengaged from the reservoir port receptacle, the needle sealing element returns to a nominal state to inhibit fluid flow through the self-sealing needle opening.

13. The fluid infusion device claim **12**, wherein the reservoir port receptacle comprises a retaining structure to maintain the needle sealing element between the distal end and the abutment surface.

* * * * *